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BENGALURU
Regular commuters using the Satellite bus stop on Mysuru road have been appealing to the BMRCL to collaborate with RTCs to establish a seamless link between the bus stop and the nearby Deepanjali Nagar metro station. » PAGE 2

Mining within 20-km radius of KRS banned

BENGALURU
The High Court of Karnataka has banned all types of mining and quarrying within a 20-km radius of the historic Krishnarajasagar (KRS) dam in Mandya district. » PAGE 6

SC sets aside release of 11 life convicts in Bilkis case

Bench reprimands ruling BJP govt. in Gujarat for acting 'in tandem' with prisoners to order their early release after 'usurping the power' to do so; the men told to report back to jail in a fortnight

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday quashed the order of *en masse* remission granted by the State of Gujarat in August 2022 to 11 men sentenced to life imprisonment for the gang rape of Bilkis Bano and murder of her family, including a two-month-old infant, during the 2002 riots.

Terming what befell Ms. Bano, who was pregnant at the time, and her family as a "grotesque and diabolical crime driven by communal hatred", a Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan delivered a scathing reprimand of the ruling BJP government in Gujarat for acting "in tandem" with the prisoners to order their early release after "usurping the power" to do so. Monday's judgment comes as a blow to the Centre, which had approved the men's premature release.

"A woman deserves respect howsoever high or low she may be otherwise considered in society or to whatever faith she may follow or any creed she may belong to. Can heinous crimes against women permit remission of the convicts by a reduction in their sentence and by granting them liberty," Justice Nagarathna asked.

Advocate Vrinda Grover, who appeared for the petitioners in the case, addressing the media after the verdict. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

The court ordered the men to report back to jail in a fortnight, declining their fervent plea to sympathise with them and not strip their personal liberty away.

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Opposition parties hail SC verdict

NEW DELHI
Opposition parties across the political spectrum on Monday hailed the Supreme Court verdict in the Bilkis Bano case, with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge claiming that the verdict exposed the "misdeeds" of the Home Ministry and the Gujarat government. » PAGE 13

India, Maldives discuss spat; Israel steps into controversy

Kallol Bhattacherjee
Meera Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Monday summoned the Maldivian envoy against the backdrop of the ongoing war of words that erupted after three Deputy Ministers of the government of President Mohamed Muizzu posted remarks that were found to be disrespectful towards India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In the middle of a diplomatic dialogue to deal with the situation, the Embassy of Israel stepped into the case and posted photographs of Lakshadweep on social media.

On Monday, High Commissioner of the Maldives Ibrahim Shaheeb was summoned to the MEA. The Indian side, however, did not issue an official statement on the discussion that took place with the Maldivian envoy.

Soon, the Indian High Commissioner to Male, Munu Mahawar, was met by the Maldivian authorities. However, the High Commission of India in the Maldives said, "High Commissioner Munu Mahawar had a pre-arranged meeting with H.E. Dr. Ali Naseer Mohamed, Ambassador at Large, at MoFA, Maldives, today to discuss bilateral issues". On Sunday, sources told *The Hindu* that the Indian High Commission in Male had taken up the social media messages by the three Deputy Ministers "strongly" with the government of President Muizzu.

In the meanwhile, in an apparent response to the remarks from Maldives' Deputy Minister for Youth Affairs Maryam Shiuna, who had mentioned Israel's ties with India in her now deleted social media post, the Israeli embassy here has waded into the controversy and come out praising the tourism potential of Lakshadweep.

Tension in ties: The Maldivian envoy, Ibrahim Shaheeb, exits the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

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Three Yash fans electrocuted while erecting banner for star's birthday in Gadag district

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

In a tragic turn of events, a celebration planned for the birthday of Kannada film actor Yash claimed the lives of three young fans. They were electrocuted while trying to erect a huge banner in their village in Gadag district around midnight on Sunday. Three others have suffered injuries in the mishap.

The incident occurred at Suranagi village in Laxmeshwar taluk of Gadag district when the fans of Yash from Ambedkar Nagar tried to erect a huge banner wishing their "hero" on his birthday. The banner, which had a steel frame, touched the high tension wire that passed over the road, resulting in electrocution. While two youths were killed on the spot, another passed away at a hospital in Laxmeshwar town.

The deceased have been identified as Hanumanth Harijan, 21, Murali Naduvinamani, 20, and Naveen Gaji, 19. Three others have been hospitalised. The youths had reportedly not noticed the high tension wire passing over the road in the dark, eyewitnesses told the police. Yash's birthday was on Monday.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced compensation of ₹2 lakh each to the families of three deceased. On learning about the tragic incident, Yash flew to Hubballi and reached Suranagi village by road on Monday evening to console the family members of the dead and the injured. The actor met the grieving family members, consoled them and promised necessary help.

Actor Yash consoling the family members of three of his deceased fans at Suranagi village in Gadag district on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Appeal by Yash

Later, speaking to pressperson, the actor called upon his fans not to throw caution to the wind in their zeal for celebration. "Don't lose your lives for the craze you have for us film stars. Act responsibly," he said, making an appeal to his fans to stop the practice of erecting banners.

Earlier, Shirahatti MLA Chandru Lamani and Deputy Commissioner of Gadag Vaishali M.L. visited the village and consoled the family members of the deceased. They also visited the hospital to enquire about the health of the injured.

DGCA revises duty norms for pilots; allows more rest, fewer night flights

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Following concerns raised by pilots over mounting fatigue due to increased flying in a fast-growing domestic aviation market, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has revised the norms regulating their duty hours by reducing night-time flying and enhancing weekly rest.

Airlines will have to comply with the revised Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) on Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) by June 1.

In a significant relief, pilots rostered to fly planes between midnight and 6 a.m., which falls in the window of circadian low that can impact sleep cycles and alertness levels and is categorised as "night duty", cannot carry out more than two landings, instead of the six permitted earlier.

No pilot can be rostered for more than two consecutive night duties.

The definition of night duty has also been expanded from the duty period of midnight to 5 a.m by raising the upper ceiling to 6 a.m.

"This enhancement of one hour during early morning will ensure adequate rest and also align the night duty period which encompasses Window of Circadian Low (WOCL) from 0200-0600 hours, i.e. the time during which the circadian body clock cycle is at its lowest in terms of alertness," the DGCA said in a press statement.

Time off: Under the new norms, no pilot can be rostered for more than two consecutive night duties. ISTOCKPHOTO

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यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम
Union Bank of India
A Government of India Undertaking
Unlock your aspirations with global education
Write your growth story with Union Education Premier Abroad:
Loan up to ₹1.5 crore
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Jaiswal... facing the music. AFP

Newlands – the latest in the never-ending debate on pitches

India captain Rohit Sharma did not hold back when he called out the hypocrisy in only slamming pitches that aided spin and not pace from day one. However, the Cape Town wicket also highlighted the consequences of inexperience in curation

P.K. Ajith Kumar
CAPE TOWN

As yet another wicket tumbled in the second Test at the Newlands Cricket Ground, Mark Nicholas, the MCC president, former England-A and Hampshire captain and now one of the most distinct voices in the game, told *The Hindu*: "I don't really think it is the best thing for Test cricket to have a Test match over in a day and a half. Four days is fine, three days is acceptable but a day and a half is not good for any of us really, the fun as it might have been, and the amount of records it has set has been amazing."

Among those records was the shortest completed match in Test history. The previous record - South Africa was also at its receiving end - was set by Australia in 1932. If it took the Aussies to win 656 balls, India needed 14 less.

"A lot of pitches improve a bit," Nicholas said. "The first morning here it looked almost as if there was a bit of moisture. There was uneven bounce and the movement from the fresh green of grass. The pitch was heavily weighted in favour of the bowler. I don't think it was a good pitch, but not an impossible pitch. You can't make a hundred or 40 on an impossible pitch."

Nicholas was referring to Aiden Markram, who made a stunning 106 off 103 balls, and Virat Kohli, who made 46. None of the 20 other batters featured in the match touched 40.

He said he wouldn't go as far as to call Newlands a bad pitch. "The problem with the pitch was that you were going to get at some stage a ball that you would be rather lucky enough to play and miss it or it would go and hit your gloves and pop over the short-leg's head; it depended on your luck," said Nicholas. "It wasn't the right pitch for a Test match, but I don't think it was a horror but I won't go call it a horror. It had a lot of pace. I have seen a lot of cricket here, but I have never seen the ball move so quickly off the seam."

At the press conferences after the Test match, India's captain Rohit Sharma, South Africa's coach Shukri Conrad and batting consultant Ashwell Prince weren't as generous in their assessment of the Newlands pitch. Both the South Africans seemed - understandably enough - upset that the pitch was so difficult to bat on in the opening session. The host, which had won the toss and chose to bat first, couldn't even last the session.

> The pitch was heavily weighted in favour of the bowler. I don't think it was a good pitch, but not an impossible pitch. You can't make a hundred or 40 on an impossible pitch
>
> **MARK NICHOLAS**
> MCC President

Rohit, who had reasons to feel happy and proud that his team did handle the tough conditions better than the home side and scored India's first ever victory at the venue, chose the occasion to refer to the less-than-satisfactory ratings given to Indian wickets in the past. He said it wasn't right that there would be criticism only if the wicket assisted spin - and not pace - from day one.

But, the general consensus here is that it wasn't a deliberate ploy to make the wicket too pace-friendly. It had more to do with the inexperience of the curator, Braam Mong, who isn't a permanent employee of the Western Province Cricket Association (WPCA) that is responsible for the Newlands ground. And it was his first Test match.

Nobody expected the pitch to behave the way it did. South Africa's coach had told this correspondent, on the eve of the match, that he was expecting it to turn in the latter stage of the match. Remember, the host didn't choose to bowl first, and that a spinner - Keshav Maharaj –had been included in the team.

Neither could the WPCA have wanted a pitch that would have robbed itself of the ticket sales for the maximum days at a time when it is facing financial issues. The food vendors too have suffered losses, according to reports in the local media.

The debate on pitches is not going to die anytime soon. In fact, we might be hearing a lot about it before long, with India hosting England in a five-match Test series.

Siraj... sensational spell on opening day. REUTERS

Mukesh... perfect support cast. GETTY IMAGES

Bumrah... sealing the deal. X@BCCI

Varun Tomar. FILE PHOTO: A.M. FARUQUI

I always wanted to be like Saurabh, says Varun Tomar

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Promising shooter Varun Tomar always wanted to be like his cousin, Olympian Saurabh Chaudhary, and on Monday the 20-year-old took a giant step towards achieving his goal by securing a quota for the 2024 Paris Games by winning gold medal at the Asian Olympic Qualifiers in Jakarta.

Tomar, who initially trained with multiple-time World Cup gold medallist and 2018 Asian Games champion Chaudhary at his home range in Baghpat district of UP, said the individual gold medal will motivate him to train harder for the 2024 Paris Games.

"I took up shooting seven years back watching my senior cousin Saurabh. He has been my motivation, having struck success early in his career. I always wanted to be like him and achieve international success," Tomar said from Jakarta.

"I started shooting a year after Saurabh and we both initially had the same coach (Amit Sheoran) in Benoli village of Baghpat," said Tomar, a former junior world championship gold medallist in team event.

Tomar, who hails from Garhi Kangran village in Baghpat, secured India's 14th Olympic quota place on the opening day of the competition, clinching both the individual and team gold.

The 20-year-old shot 239.6 in the final of the 10m air pistol event to claim the top position in individual category ahead of compatriot Arjun Cheema (237.3).

Earlier, Tomar (586), Cheema (579) and Ujjawal Malik (575) shot a total of 1740 to win the 10m air pistol team gold.

Helping hand

"It helped that I had someone like Saurabh to take guidance from as I don't have anyone in the family who is a shooter," said Tomar, who comes from a farming family.

After nearly seven years of training, Tomar finally got success last year, winning individual bronze medals at the World Cups in Bhopal and Cairo.

Soon he was selected for training at the National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) at the Karni Singh Ranges here and is now employed with the Indian Army.

"I have always appreciated Varun for his calm nature. He is a copy of Saurabh. He hardly interacts with anyone at the range and just keeps to himself, training hard," said national rifle coach Deepak Dubey here.

"He is still a junior but is learning fast. The success in the two World Cups last year and the individual gold medal today are an indication that he really has a sound technique and temperament," said Dubey.

"I know for a fact that he got inspired by Saurabh. He came into NCOE about 5-6 months back. He made a place in the Indian team last year and won two medals in World Cups. He has shot some really good scores last year.

"His selection by the Army Marksmanship Unit has given his career a big boost. The fact that he has come up on his own without having a personal coach is indeed creditworthy," said Dubey.

"He only shoots 10m air pistol and not 25m rapid fire, which helps him give undivided attention to just one discipline. He is just like Saurabh, doesn't talk much, very disciplined, hard working and very obedient," added Dubey.

INBRIEF

Books invited for award

Karnataka Sahitya Academy has invited books in various categories, including poetry, novel, short story, humour, travelogue, autobiography/life history, literary review, science and children's literature, and translation from Kannada to English for its annual book award for 2022. Books printed during January to December 2022 (first print) are eligible for entry. For details, call 080-22211730 or 080-22106460.

Applications invited for courses at NLSIU

The National Law School of India University (NLSIU) has invited applications for three year LL.B (Hons.), Master's programme in Public Policy, Ph.D (Law), and Ph.D (Interdisciplinary) programmes for the academic year 2024-25. NLSIU, in a release, said admission to all three programmes will be based on an all-India National Law School Admission Test, which will be held on March 17, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. in test centres across the country. Application forms are available on the application portal admission.nls.ac.in, the release stated. The last date to submit an application is February 24.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated January 9, we have a story on how students of IIIT-B are making access to information relatively easy for rural communities by developing a search interface called Graama-Kannada Audio Search with colloquial audio content in Kannada language.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (January 09, Tuesday), the following explainers are available:

- Debating India's new hit-and-run law **bit.ly/hitandrunstrike**
- Study revives South Korea superconductivity claim with new data **bit.ly/sksuperconductivity**

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Commuters seek connectivity between Satellite bus stop and Deepanjali Nagar metro station

They currently have to cover a distance of over 1 km on foot from the metro station to the bus stop; autorickshaw drivers charge more than ₹50 for this short journey

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Regular commuters using the Satellite bus stop on Mysuru road have been appealing to the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to collaborate with the Road Transport Corporations (RTCs) to establish a seamless link between the bus stop and the nearby Deepanjali Nagar metro station.

This plea stems from the inconvenience faced by commuters who currently have to cover a distance of over 1 km on foot from the bus stop to the metro station. Auto-rickshaws charge more than ₹50 to ₹70 for this short journey.

The Satellite bus station has separate bays for outstation buses and another bay specifically designated for Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses. This station serves as the starting point for Karnataka Road State Transport Corporation (KSRTC) buses heading towards various destinations such as Mysuru, Madikeri, Virajpet, Kollegal, Chamarajanagar, Ramanagara, Mandya, Kozhikode, Kasargod, and other destination. Due to this, it is one of the busiest bus stations in the city witnessing a significant influx of commuters on a daily basis.

A view of Deepanjali Nagar metro station from Mysore Road Satellite bus station in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Commuters say that if a connection between the metro station and the bus stop is made, it would be convenient and provide the metro as an option for last-mile connectivity. Rajesh Kumar, a daily commuter, said, "The long walk from the metro station to the bus stop is inconvenient, especially during rush hours. If the BMRCL collaborates with the BMTC to have mini-buses, it would greatly improve the overall commuting experience."

Ankit Nayak, a commuter said: "Connecting the Deepanjali Nagar metro station to the Satellite bus stop would benefit hundreds of commuters. Auto-rickshaws charging exorbitant prices for the short distance between the metro station and bus stop is frustrating. Many people go to Kengeri bus stop, but this will not help anyone since many buses towards Mysuru and Kodagu don't stop there."

'Lack of maintenance'

Ramya Kulkarni, another regular traveller, highlighted that the journey from the bus stop to the metro station involves a 20-minute walk. "Despite the walk being manageable for the majority of commuters, the pedestrian pathways along the route lack proper maintenance. Furthermore, Mysuru Road experiences significant traffic congestion, posing challenges for passengers, particularly the elderly and those with luggage, in navigating this stretch and crossing the busy Mysuru Road," she added.

Meanwhile, officials from BMRCL and BMTC have stated that there are no current plans for a feeder bus service between the metro and bus stations. However, they assured that they will look into the matter and consider potential solutions in the future.

BMRCL plans to install steel railings at all metro stations as part of safety measures

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following three recent incidents of people accessing the electrified metro tracks, with one reported suicide attempt, Namma metro authorities are planning to install steel hand railings along the platforms at all stations.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) will introduce platform screen doors (PSD) in a few upcoming metro stations. The initial implementation of PSD will take place at Konappana Agrahara in Electronics City, making it the first station in the city to feature this technology. This station, funded by Infosys Foundation, is part of the R.V. Road-Bommasandra Yellow Line, expected to become operational this year.

"Ensuring the safety of passengers and preventing incidents of people entering the tracks, which can lead to significant disruptions in metro operations, is a pressing concern. Our strategy involves installing steel hand railings along the platforms of busy stations, specifically positioned at the platform edges where train doors open. Commencing from Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Interchange Station, we aim to implement these hand railings," a senior BMRCL official said.

At present, BMRCL has issued tenders for the installation of PSD in the underground corridor (Reach-6) of Phase-2. PSD serves to mitigate potential incidents like individuals falling onto the tracks, leaning over platform edges, or straying beyond designated platform areas. Notably, other metros in India, such as those in Delhi and Chennai, have already adopted PSD.

BMRCL is also all set to introduce platform screen doors in a few upcoming metro stations. FILE PHOTO

Currently, BMRCL relies on guards near metro platforms to monitor individuals approaching the tracks or attempting to jump onto them, as well as to manage crowds by making them stand in queues. However, the absence of PSD still poses potential dangers.

On January 5, a male commuter jumped in front of a train at Jalahalli metro station at 7.12 p.m. He sustained injuries and was shifted to a private hospital. This incident resulted in disruptions in the Green Line operations until 8 p.m.

17 more new fire stations in Karnataka soon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State will soon have 17 more new fire stations while the existing stations will be upgraded at a cost of ₹329 crore.

Kamal Pant, Director General of Police, Fire and Emergency Services, submitted an action plan to Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Monday. The action plan includes proposals to renovate and upgrade the Fire Department. The new fire stations will be built in towns identified by the department while the existing stations will be renovated and upgraded based on the requirements to prevent any eventualities. The upgradation plan will come in handy to tackle issues related to natural calamities.

Mr. Byre Gowda said the Fire Department should utilise all resources to tackle challenges effectively.

BUSINESS CONNECT — A Business Initiative

Alleviate Pain Mangement Clinic – Knee Pain : Get Relief without surgery

Knee Pain caused by Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common type of arthritis. Osteoarthritis is the second most common rheumatologic problem and more common in women than men, but the prevalence increases dramatically with age. Radio Frequency Ablation is a non-invasive procedure that relieves debilitating chronic pain. It provides an alternative for patients who suffer from moderate to severe osteoarthritis pain. Radio Frequency Ablation (RFA) uses radio frequency to target and "mute" the nerves which are sending the pain signals from the painful body part to the brain. Alleviate Pain Management Clinic, Bengaluru has presented this revolutionary technique, which is proven to be an effective alternative for traditional methods. Why RFA? Radio Frequency Ablation doesn't repair Arthritis (a condition caused when the cartilage in the joints is worn down over time and use), but it does ease the pain of the disease, helping patients get back to their active lifestyles with minimal discomfort and fewer medications. Benefits: 1. Recovery in 1-2 hours 2. Non-opiod method 3. Long lasting relief 4. No hospital admission How does RFA work? Radiofrequency (RF) energy is transmitted from an apparatus through a probe which is inserted within the painful tissue. The cooling effect of this method deactivates the nerves which are responsible for sending the pain signals to the brain. RFA is also proven to be highly effective against Back Pain, Neck & Shoulder Pain, Hip Pain, Ankle, Cancer Pain & Foot Pain. For more details, please visit www.alleviatepainclinic.com

C. Krishniah Chetty Group of Jewellers presents KWAA-Karnataka Women Achievers Awards 2023 & IWAA - Indian Women Achievers Award 2023

The highly anticipated and prestigious award ceremony of the year has entered its magnificent 6th edition, as part of the Shining Stars programme by CKC. The aim was to applaud each woman's unique achievements, accomplishments and contributions across Karnataka and India in effecting positive change in society through her chosen field, serving as a guiding light for future generations to follow. The grand ceremony took place at Taj Yeshwantpur - Yeshwantpur and was graced by the esteemed Chief Guests- Air Marshall R Radhish, along with Dr. C Vinod Hayagriv, Director, and MD & Mrs. C Triveni Vinod, Executive Director of the 155-year-old CKC.The evening's awards ceremony sought to recognise prominent achievers and endeavoured to bring to light the achievements

of lesser, equally achieving women from all walks of life.On this occasion, Dr C. Vinod Hayagriv v, MD and Director of CKC extended a hearty appreciation to the 12 Jury Members who themselves were achievers and diligently worked to make these selections without bias or favouritism.A unique aspect of this year's celebration is the successful completion of the 11 year continuation of Shining Stars and a 6-year milestone association between CKC and KWAA/IWAA. On this occasion Ms Spoorthi Vishwas, Actor, Founder Director, KWAA said It's a moment of pure elation to see how far we've come and heartfelt to CKC for their unwavering support in making this dream a reality and congratulated all the deserving awardees.

UK 27 the Fern Belagavi - Travellers Choice

UK 27 the Fern Belagavi is a smart, efficient business hotel and offers the finest of accommodations. It has a world cuisine restaurant, an authentic Indian veg restaurant, a rooftop resto-bar and swimming pool, state of the art banquet halls, and a finely designed lobby lounge. Can also go for a relaxing stroll in the evening in the hotel's lush green lawn. The hotel is situated at the heart of the city with easy access to the major sightseeing attractions in town and to public transport. Weddings, anniversaries, birthday parties, conferences, corporate award events and dinner, dealer's meet, training sessions, off-sites, fashion shows, car promotion shows; you name it, we host it. You would be spoilt for choice here as you will have to decide whether you want to spend your day in the sun and feel reinvigorated by a session of any outdoor activity or just relax, and take a swim in the spectacular swimming pool. The Hotel combines all sorts of activities with supreme leisure so that nobody feels left out; be it families, couples, or young adults. The primary goal is to make stay as memorable as could have possibly imagined.

South Korea superconductivity claim revived with new data

Last year, a material dubbed LK-99 hogged headlines after South Korean researchers claimed it could be a room-temperature superconductor. Soon after, independent researchers found problems in the group's data and nixed the claim, but the findings of a new study are offering it a second life

Vasudevan Mukunth

A group of scientists affiliated with research institutes in China and Japan have reported finding a sign of superconductivity in a material that was at the centre of a controversy last year over similar claims.

Their study is described in a preprint paper they uploaded to the internet on January 2. (A preprint is a paper the authors have finished writing and is yet to be peer-reviewed.)

While the study has already drawn some attention in the scientific community, the researchers who conducted it and others are proceeding with caution – some rooted in the superconductivity controversies that erupted last year and some in the study itself.

What is the Meissner effect?

The sign in question is called the Meissner effect. It is one of a few 'effects' certain materials exhibit when they're able to conduct electric currents without any resistance – i.e. when they become superconductors. The researchers have reported in their paper that they observed the Meissner effect in a compound called copper-substituted lead apatite.

Scientists know many types of materials that become superconducting in different conditions – metals, metallic compounds, ceramics, hydrides, etc. They all have one thing in common: they become superconducting either when they're cooled to extremely low temperatures or when they're subjected to extremely high pressures.

Many scientists are looking for a material that becomes superconducting at room temperature and pressure (RTP). Aside from scientific curiosity, such a material would have applications worth several billion dollars. It could be used to make wires that transport electricity with zero loss; such transmission losses are the largest source of electric energy loss in the world today.

The material will also have uses in medical diagnostics, computing, power generation, advanced electronic circuits, and many other fields. For example, the water-absorbing properties of modern diapers were first tested with particle accelerators, which use superconducting magnets to work.

How has hype influenced science?

Unfortunately, these lucrative opportunities have had a knock-back effect on scientists' search for an RTP superconductor. Discovering such a thing would make a scientist instantly famous, the recipient of many coveted awards, and very rich. But these incentives have also encouraged some to rush their findings.

There were multiple superconductor-related controversies in 2023. One set was centred on the University of Rochester physicist Ranga Dias, who reported limited evidence of superconductivity in lutetium hydride in March, only for his coauthors to later ask for the study to be retracted. In August, a journal retracted another paper of a study led by Dr. Dias, reporting superconductivity in manganese sulphide, for faulty data.

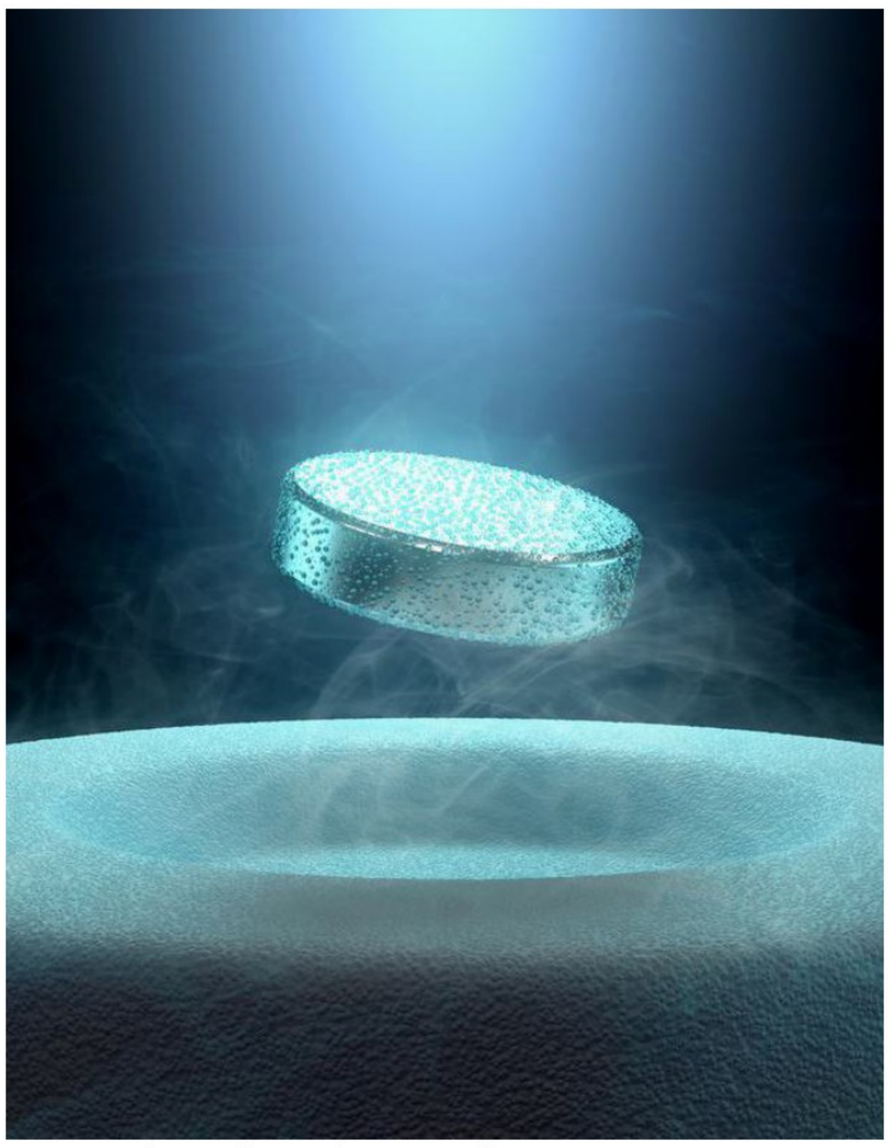


Image concept of a magnet levitating above a superconductor. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

> The water-absorbing properties of modern diapers were first tested with particle accelerators, which use superconducting magnets to work

Another set focused on a material called LK-99 that, a South Korean research group claimed, was an RTP superconductor. Independent studies soon found that when LK-99 was prepared the way the South Korean group had indicated (albeit not clearly), it didn't become a superconductor. Instead, it acquired an impurity whose presence the group hadn't accounted for, and which distorted measurements of the material's heat capacity and magnetism in a way an actual superconductor would have, misleading the scientists.

But before this became clear, a tsunami of hype about commercialising LK-99 inundated X and other social media platforms washed ashore.

What did the new study report?

The authors of the new preprint paper may have wished to sidestep this hype because they've reported that their material may be an RTP superconductor.

Specifically, they have reported a sign of near-RTP superconductivity in LK-99, which is in fact copper-substituted lead apatite.

According to their preprint paper, they continued to study the material even after other studies had failed to find signs of superconductivity because the latter tested specific claims made by the South Korean group.

Instead, the new group has said it synthesised LK-99 samples using a "state of the art" approach and tested it for some other signs of superconductivity.

In particular, the group looked for "hysteresis loop ... in the [direct current] measurements".

Direct current measurements

Say a material is inside a magnetic field and then the material's physical conditions are changed such that it becomes a superconductor. As it transitions to its superconducting state, the material will expel any magnetic field in its bulk to the surface. This expulsion is called the Meissner effect.

The effect can only be observed if the electric current used to produce the magnetic field is a direct current (DC). If an alternating current is used, the magnetic field will constantly switch between two directions and the material won't display the effect.

Scientists also know of two types of superconductors, depending on – among other things – how they respond to a magnetic field. If the magnetic field applied to a superconductor becomes too strong, the material will completely lose its superconducting state and allow the field to penetrate its body. These are type I superconductors.

In type II superconductors, when the magnetic field strength crosses a threshold, the extent of superconductivity inside the material will gradually drop until, at a higher second threshold, it vanishes completely.

How did researchers do this?

In their study, the Chinese groups applied a slowly strengthening magnetic field to samples of LK-99 they had prepared in their labs – and then slowly took it away. They constantly checked the extent to which the material allowed the field to penetrate its bulk changed in this cycle. They also repeated this experiment at four temperatures: -173.15, -73.15, -23.15, and 26.85 degrees C.

This is the classic hysteresis experiment. When you apply an increasingly strong magnetic field to a suitable material, it becomes increasingly magnetised. When you slowly tune down the magnetic field, however, the material's magnetisation doesn't retrace its path downwards but takes a separate one. It's like you go up a mountain in your car on one road, but when you're asked to return, you take a different but parallel road.

The overall shape of the forward and backward path – called the hysteresis loop – combines the effects of temperature, the magnetic field, and the material's magnetisation on the material's properties. As a result, it contains information about the conditions in which the material switches in and out of its superconducting states.

Based on these tests, the researchers reported the LK-99 samples they prepared might have a critical temperature of around -23 degrees C – which can be said to be near room-temperature – and that may be exhibiting the Meissner effect at this temperature.

Since these samples don't have to be pressurised for their alleged superconducting states to turn up, they can be said to be a near-RTP superconductor – or at least that's the possibility that has drawn scientists' attention to the study.

RTP superconductor

Based on the hysteresis loops, the researchers wrote in their paper, "we think there is still [a] great chance to observe room-temperature superconductivity" in (their version of) LK-99. It hasn't been observed yet, however.

The researchers also acknowledged some problems in their tests. In their samples of the material, the portions that seemed to be superconducting were quite small. So the critical magnetic field strength – beyond which the material can't superconduct – was also small. The higher this field is, the easier it is to probe the material's properties.

Another problem was "interference from cuprous sulphide" in the researchers' attempts to discern LK-99's molecular structure using X-rays, and that "complete elimination of this interference remains challenging".

"One has to identify the material that is producing the putative superconductivity and find synthesis techniques that will increase the fraction of [this] material, relative to other things like cuprous sulphide," Vijay Shenoy, professor of physics at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, told *The Hindu*.

"A lot more effort might be needed to achieve this, if ever it exists."

An oil extraction installation in the Permian Basin in Jal, New Mexico, on October 14, 2021. AP

Swiss, Thai groups close first sale of Paris pact carbon offsets

Reuters

A Thai electric bus operator said on Monday it had sold the first carbon offsets under a new system created by the Paris Agreement to a Swiss fossil fuel group, a major landmark for putting into action the eight-year-old United Nations climate accord.

The 2015 Paris Agreement allows for governments and companies to offset some of their greenhouse gas emissions by paying for steps to cut climate pollutants elsewhere. Those offsets are packaged as credits, each equivalent to reducing one metric tonne of carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions.

Some environmentalists, however, criticise carbon offsets, saying they allow pollution to continue when the focus should be on eradicating it.

Switzerland's KliK Foundation, which represents fuel importers, said on Monday that it had completed the first purchase of 1,916 carbon credits from Thailand's Energy Absolute in December.

"We are pioneers," Chatrapon Sripratum, an Energy Absolute executive overseeing the project, told *Reuters*. "This market will really boom in the future."

The Swiss government forced KliK's hand by obligating fuel importers to offset a rising percentage of their emissions, either domestically or internationally through Paris Agreement compliant credit

Energy Absolute is generating the credits by launching a fleet of up to 4,000 electric buses in Bangkok, rather than using petrol-fueled vehicles.

Sripratum said the sales price was more than $30 per credit, declining to give the exact value of the deal.

Climate negotiators took years to agree on the rules for offsets, with many of the details still being worked out at annual U.N. climate negotiations, most recently at COP28 in Dubai.

This means that Energy Absolute and KliK – and regulators in both countries who must authorise the deal under the Paris Agreement – can influence a nascent market if the final U.N. rules follow their lead. But it also poses the risk that they will need to retroactively revise their transaction.

"There's no clear rule saying how this needs to be done, and in that sense being the first might be an advantage in the long run, but, at first, it's really hard work and also a lot of cost," KliK managing director Marco Berg said.

The Swiss government forced KliK's hand by obligating fuel importers to offset a steadily rising percentage of their emissions, either domestically or internationally through Paris Agreement compliant credits.

KliK has agreed to buy offsets for up to 1.5 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions through 2030 from Energy Absolute, representing just a portion of the 20 million credits it foresees needing to buy by decade's end, Berg said.

That compares to the roughly 40 million metric tonnes of CO_2 that Switzerland expects to offset abroad through 2030 to meet its climate targets, the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment told Reuters.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Albert Einstein, the world's best known face of genius

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Name the physicist, who, on December 13, 1965, said this about Einstein in a talk at UNESCO: "He was almost wholly without sophistication and wholly without worldliness … There was always with him a wonderful purity at once childlike and profoundly stubborn".

QUESTION 2

Name the physicist with whom Einstein invented a refrigerator in 1926, called the Einstein refrigerator. It was unique for its time because it had no moving parts and used heat to cool. Hint: This physicist is portrayed in the film 'Oppenheimer'.

QUESTION 3

Name the Danish physicist with whom Einstein had a much-publicised public dispute in the early 20th century, but especially from 1927, over whether quantum mechanics was really complete. Unlike this physicist, Einstein continued to insist until his death that quantum mechanics wasn't.

QUESTION 4

In 1905, Einstein published four papers related to the photoelectric effect, the principles of Brownian motion, the special theory of relativity, and the mass-energy equivalence. Considering their impact on 20th century science, what is the collective name for these papers?

QUESTION 5

Two mountains around the world are named for Einstein. One is in the Chugach National Forest of Alaska. In which country is the other Mt Einstein located? This mountain was named so under a project started by explorer Julius von Haast. Other peaks nearby are called Mt Rutherford, Mt Curie, and Mt Mendel.

Answers to January 4 quiz:

1. Physicists' unit of time equal to roughly 10^{-44} seconds – **Ans: Planck time**
2. Unit of time equal to 10^{-18} seconds – **Ans: Attosecond**
3. One effect of this is time dilation – **Ans: General theory of relativity**
4. The date on which Unix time begins – **Ans: January 1, 1970**
5. Universe era that will end in three zettaseconds – **Ans: Stelliferous era**

Visual: **Tellurium**

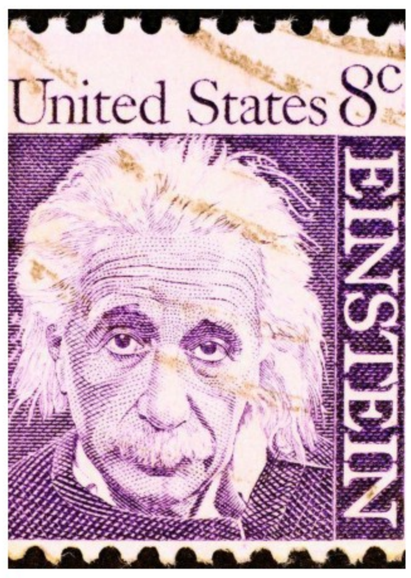
First contact: P.N. Moorthy | Keshav Kumar | Vijayram Ganasala | Sayan Biswas

Answers to January 5 quiz:

1. An alcohol-related disorder resulting from a lack of vitamin B1 – **Ans: Korsakoff syndrome**
2. The skin produces this hormone when exposed to the sun – **Ans: Vitamin D**
3. Vitamin C facilitates the synthesis of this structural protein in skin, cartilage, tendons – **Ans: Collagen**
4. Name for water-soluble vitamin with a role in the metabolism of fats, carbohydrates, amino acids – **Ans: Biotin**
5. Often called the forgotten vitamin, has a role in blood clotting – **Ans: Vitamin K**

Visual: **Casimir Funk**

First contact: Sushantika Subbiah | Vikas Singh | Vaibhanshi Chaudhary | Yogapriya Karthigeyan | Isha Joshi



Einstein is among the world's most celebrated scientists. His achievements resonate across generations. GETTY IMAGES

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for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Above average rainfall expected in Karnataka till March

Between January 1 and 8, Karnataka recorded a total of 6.3 mm of rainfall as against the normal quantum of 0.6 mm. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a disappointing monsoon in 2023, the new year has brought better prospects for Karnataka as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a long-range forecast that there is a 70% chance of above-normal rainfall in the State from January to March.

Between January 1 and 8, the State recorded a total of 6.3 millimetres of rainfall against the normal quantum of 0.6 mm. Coastal Karnataka received 23 mm rainfall while the normal rainfall for the period is 0.5 mm and South Interior Karnataka recorded 7.3 mm rainfall against the normal of 0.6 mm, the scientists from IMD Bengaluru said.

Two weather systems

The recent rainfall in the State has been caused by two weather systems. "There is a trough extending from the southern part of Sri Lanka to the northern coast of Tamil Nadu 900 metres above sea level. Due to this, many districts in South Interior Karnataka had overcast skies and light rains," said A. Prasad, scientist, IMD Bengaluru.

"There is also a cyclonic circulation 1.5 kilometres above sea level in the southeast direction, which was over Lakshadweep on Sunday, due to which the coastal region got good rainfall. As it moved westward on Monday, the rainfall will gradually reduce. After a few spells of rain on Tuesday, there will be dry weather for five days," he added.

Light rain in Bengaluru

The weather was gloomy all day long on Monday and there was some drizzling in frequent intervals due to the aforementioned systems. The overcast skies and light rain is expected to continue on Tuesday.

South India Content Summit 2024 to be held in Bengaluru today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The South India Content Summit 2024, which promises to be an event to understand the rapid transformation and remarkable growth of the content creation industry in south India, will be held at the Grand Lalit Ashok on Tuesday.

The Hindu is the media partner for the event, which is being organised by Fourth Dimension Media Solutions.

The summit will kick off with two leadership sessions, offering deep insights about visionary leadership, industry trends, and effective strategies. Complementing these sessions are four engaging panel discussions: Elevating Brand Experience through Content, Evangelising and Embracing Content, Content Marketing to Millennials, and Role of Technology in Digital Eco-system.

These sessions and discussions aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the content ecosystem, encouraging collaboration and innovation within the south Indian content creation space.

Dignitaries

The summit will be inaugurated by Hemant Nimbalkar, IPS, Commissioner of the Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Karnataka. Other dignitaries in the line-up include Madhusudan Sai and Dushyanth Sridhar from Abhinava e-Patashala, Kartik Sharma, Group CEO of Omnicom Media Group, and K. Madhavan, founding member & MD of Peps Industries Private Limited and Gopakumar, COO of Bhima Jewels.

"Bengaluru has always embraced new stuff, and this summit will definitely live up to the expectations of south India and Bengaluru, in particular," said Shankar B., CEO, Fourth Dimension Media, an event management company.

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Source: Bloomberg; Computation: In-house. Data from Jan 2010 to Sep 2023. Rolling Returns calculated on a daily basis. Multi asset model portfolio considers theoretical allocation of 25% to Gold, 10% to 10Y G-secs and the rest towards Nifty 50. Equity allocation to Nifty 50 ranges from 50% to 65% based on asset allocation framework using market valuations. Past performance may or may not sustained in the future. The index used is CPI combined (2012 base).

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Taper tantrum	Jun '13 to Aug '13	-6.3	24.6
Correction post election rally	Mar '15 to Feb '16	-17.7	11.2
Covid pandemic	Jan '20 to Mar '20	-28.6	0.7
Ukraine-Russia conflict	Jan '22 to Jun '22	-9.0	6.3

Source: Bloomberg, In-house computation. Gold returns based on MCX Gold Index. Data from Jan 2010 to Sep 2023. Past performance may or may not be sustained in the future.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Level to which India's agriculture exports will reach by 2030

100 in $ billion. India's agriculture exports, which stood at over $50 billion at present, are expected to double, said Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal. He said that the country is targeting $2 trillion worth of exports by 2030. PTI

Amount Vietnamese automaker seeks to invest in India

2 in $ billion. Vietnamese automaker VinFast says it plans to build an electric vehicle factory in India, the world's third-largest auto market by sales. The factory in Tamil Nadu will be the company's first foray into India and follows its launch of sales in other markets. PTI

The increase in India's coal imports in November

11.7 in percentage. India's coal imports increased to 20.95 million tonnes (MT) in November as compared to the year-ago period. However, coal imports in the April to November period dropped to 169.08 MT from 173.47 MT in the year-ago period. PTI

The increase in people seeking asylum in Germany

51 in percentage. The number of people applying for asylum in Germany last year rose to 3,51,915. The largest number of asylum-seekers came from Syria, with 1,04,561 applications, followed by Turkish citizens (62,624) and Afghans (53,582). AP

The amount to be invested by the govt. in river cruise tourism

45,000 in ₹ crore. The Union Minister said the govt. would invest ₹60,000 crore by 2047 in development of green vessels and river cruise tourism. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Debating India's new hit-and-run law

Transporters and commercial drivers are demanding the withdrawal or amendment of Section 106 (2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. They argue that while strict action in hit-and-run cases is necessary, the new law has several flaws that need reconsideration

LETTER & SPIRIT

G. S. Bajpai

The story so far:

Transporters and commercial drivers from States like Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, and Punjab have staged protests against the recent legislation concerning hit-and-run incidents. Section 106 (2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS) stipulates a penalty of up to 10 years in jail and a fine for fleeing an accident spot and failing to report the incident to a police officer or a magistrate. This law is in addition to the colonial-era provision on causing of death due to rash or negligent acts under Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. Protestors are demanding the withdrawal or amendment of Section 106 (2), backed by the threat of a nationwide strike if their demands are not met. They argue that while strict action in hit-and-run cases is necessary, the new law has several flaws that need reconsideration.

What happened?

The new law has sparked widespread protests among truck drivers, affecting multiple States. In Maharashtra, the protest turned intense with truck drivers staging road blocks, and where incidents of stone-pelting led to police injuries and vehicle damage. It has also sparked fears of fuel shortages. Chhattisgarh witnessed a similar upheaval, as 12,000 private bus drivers went on strike, leaving commuters stranded across major cities and causing panic at petrol pumps. Similar incidents were reported from West Bengal, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh where normalcy has come to a grinding halt.

What are the demands of protesters?

Transporters have raised concerns that the offence provides for stringent punishment even where the accidents are unintentional. Their primary concern is the severe punishment of 10 years imprisonment and ₹7 lakh fine for drivers who flee the scene of an accident without reporting the same. They protest that this penalty is excessive and that it fails to consider their challenging work conditions, including long driving hours and difficult roads. Additionally, they argue that accidents may be caused by factors beyond the driver's control, such as poor visibility due to fog. The same, combined with fears of mob violence against drivers in the event that they stop to assist the injured at accident sites, has fuelled the protests against the law.

The general perception among drivers is that they are often unfairly blamed for accidents, regardless of the actual circumstances. They argue that the punishment provided by the law is disproportionate and does not align with the realities of road transport and the nature of accidents. The drivers are also concerned that the law may be abused by law enforcement agencies to their detriment. They think that these harsh penalties could have a negative impact on the transport industry as a whole given that stringent punishments may deter many from joining or continuing in the profession.

What is the need for the law?

The new law comes in the backdrop of concerning figures related to road accidents in India. In 2022, India registered the highest count of road crash fatalities, exceeding 1.68 lakh deaths. This unsettling statistic translates to an average of 462 deaths daily. Despite a 5% global decrease in road crash deaths, India witnessed a year-on-year increase of 12% in road accidents and 9.4% in fatalities in the same year. The country averages 19 deaths due to road accidents every hour which amounts to nearly one death every three and a half minutes. Over half of all road fatalities occurred on national and State highways, which form less than 5% of the total road network. With only 1% of the world's vehicles, India accounts for about 10% of crash-related deaths and incurs an economic loss of 5-7% of its GDP annually due to road crashes.

In protest: Trucks parked during a strike by drivers over new penal provisions in the hit-and-run law, in Nagpur, on January 2. PTI

What is the principle underlying the law?

The National Crime Records Bureau recorded 47,806 hit and run incidents which resulted in the deaths of 50,815 people in 2022. All penal laws carry with them certain justifications for punishment. The side of the coin seeking stringency in punishment appears to lie in an expressive function of the law which wants to deter drivers from engaging in rash and negligent driving that may lead to death. On the other side, however, the intent is to punish an offender in the event that they attempt to escape the law after causing death due to rash and negligent driving. Here, the law creates a positive obligation on part of the offender to report such an incident to the police or magistrate. They are also provisions to criminalise the omission in the performance of such a duty. The imposition of this legal duty clearly arises from a legislative intent to enforce moral responsibility on the part of the offender towards the victim of a road accident. Such conversion of moral responsibility into a legal duty is not new to cases pertaining to motor vehicle accidents. For instance, Section 134 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, requires the driver of the vehicle to take all reasonable steps to secure medical attention for the injured person unless it is not practicable on account of mob fury or any other reason beyond his control. Similarly, the question of whether the offender fled from the spot was identified as a significant factor in the scheme for motor accidents claim formulated by the Delhi High Court in the case of *Rajesh Tyagi versus Jaibir Singh* (2021).

Are the protests justified?

The widely circulated view that Section 106 (2) of the BNS stipulates an imprisonment of up to 10 years and a fine of ₹7 lakh for fleeing an accident spot and failing to report the incident to a police officer/magistrate is grossly incorrect. While this Section discusses a maximum punishment of 10 years and a fine, there is no actual mention in the BNS about the fine being ₹7 lakh. Section 161 of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, provides compensation for victims of hit-and-run accidents. The compensation for death is ₹2 lakh and for grievous hurt it is ₹50,000. Unlike Section 106 (2) of BNS, the compensation in this case is not recoverable from the drivers.

Sub-section 1 of Section 106 of the BNS applies to rash or negligent driving where if the driver reports the matter to the police, they shall incur a punishment of up to five years with a fine. However, in the latter case of 106 (2), if the driver fails to report the matter and escapes, they will be imprisoned for up to 10 years. Despite increase in the quantum of punishment in this section, the offence has not been made non-bailable.

The way forward is to revisit and reconcile these two clauses so that more than 35 lakh truck drivers in the country are not treated unfairly, apart from individual vehicle drivers. For instance, an exception has been made under 106 (1) of the BNS for doctors in the event of rash or negligent acts, where the punishment will be up to two years with a fine. This limited categorisation is problematic and is against the principles of equality, as the liability of a wide variety of people working in other sectors also needs to be moderated.

Section 106 (2) is particularly contested and protested by truck drivers, and this section has the scope to be revisited. This section does not differentiate between rash and negligent driving as two separate types. In order to provide a graded liability and commensurate punishment, the acts of rash driving and negligent driving must be separated and placed under different degrees of liability so that all incidents of this nature are not bracketed into one, causing prejudice to the actors. Arguably, this determination of the actor's liability has to consider contributory factors in negligent acts such as the behaviour of commuters, road conditions, lighting on the road, and other similar factors. In such a situation, the applicability of one clause fitting to all categories will serve as prejudice against drivers in different circumstances.

Instead of ruling 10 years of imprisonment for all cases, the same could be categorised in different scales based on liabilities so that the apprehensions of the drivers could be put to rest. Further, there are many ambiguities about this clause, particularly among drivers. Hence, it is necessary to mention that in cases of accidents resulting in grievous/straightforward injuries, the corresponding classified clauses of liabilities will apply, and that the applicability of Section 106 (2) will be invoked only in the event of death due to an accident. The road accidents resulting in minor injuries ought not to be equated with criminal acts. Here measures like community service or revoking of driving licences or mandatory driving retests etc. could be the ways to criminalise.

The author is the Vice Chancellor, National Law University Delhi. Views are personal.

THE GIST

- Transporters and commercial drivers from States like Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, and Punjab have staged protests against the recent legislation concerning hit-and-run incidents.
- The widely circulated view that Section 106 (2) of the BNS stipulates an imprisonment of up to 10 years and a fine of ₹7 lakh for fleeing an accident spot and failing to report the incident to a police officer/magistrate is grossly incorrect.
- The way forward is to revisit and reconcile the two clauses in Section 106 so that more than 35 lakh truck drivers in the country are not treated unfairly.

Youth fatally knocked down by BMTC bus on Uttarahalli main road; residents stage protest

Tejas, a private firm employee, was on his way to office when the speeding bus hit him while attempting to overtake his bike

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 22-year-old youth was killed on the spot when a speeding BMTC bus knocked down his bike on Uttarahalli main road on Monday morning. The deceased, identified as Tejas, was working in a private firm and was on his way to work when the speeding bus knocked him down while attempting to overtake him. Tejas lost control and came under the rear wheel of the bus.

A student, who was on his way to college, posted on social media that he saw the victim lying on the street with severe injuries. "As he was struggling to breathe, people were taking pictures and vehicles were just passing by," he said. He and his friend rushed to a nearby hospital and tried to fetch an ambulance to the spot and the private hospital staff did not take it seriously, he alleged.

"They said the ambulance driver was away. We begged the receptionist to let us drive as the man was taking his last breath," he said. "The ambulance arrived 30 minutes later, when the victim had died," he wrote. "The entire situation revolved around the roads in front of Mantri Alpyne not being fixed properly," the student wrote.

The accident on the busy and narrow Uttarahalli Main Road, presently being widened, led to protests by residents later in the day.

"There are many accidents on this road that connects Kengeri, Banashankari, and Electronics City, putting all road users at great risk. The road widening work has begun on the stretch, but that has only aggravated traffic congestion. It is a nightmare to navigate this road, especially for pedestrians, senior citizens, and schoolchildren," said Subrata Nath, a resident of the area and one of the protesters.

Officials have now promised to streamline traffic on the road by January 11, sources said.

A senior traffic police official said that the traffic congestion on the Uttarahalli Main Road was mainly due to two-way traffic being allowed on a narrow road and due to haphazard parking. "The ongoing construction work is adding to the problem. We will study the problem and submit a report to the department concerned for necessary action," he said.

Residents block the Uttarahalli-Kengeri main road in Bengaluru during a protest following the death of a motorcyclist in an accident on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Four killed in separate road accidents in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Four people were killed in separate accidents in the city since Sunday.

A 26-year-old private firm employee was killed and the pillion rider injured when their bike lost control and crashed into a roadside iron barricade in Kote cross near Devanahalli on Monday. The duo was heading to Nandi Hills when the accident occurred.

In another incident, a 60-year-old farmer identified as Narayanaswamy was killed when a speeding car knocked him down while he was crossing the road in Devana

halli on Sunday evening. The car driver abandoned the vehicle and fled from the scene.

A 44-year-old car driver identified as Raju N.L. was killed after he lost control and rammed into a road-divider on Dinnur main road in R.T. Nagar on Sunday night. Raju was in an inebriated condition and was returning home with his friend Narasimharaju, when he lost control of the vehicle. The RT Nagar traffic police have taken up a case of self-accident for further investigation.

A 53-year-old bike rider was killed after he lost control of the bike and slipped on the road in Kirloskar Layout in Peenya on Sunday. The deceased, Sunil Kumar, was returning home when the accident occurred. He was taken to the hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, JAN. 09	
RISE 06:44	SET 18:09
RISE 04:25	SET 15:58
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10	
RISE 06:44	SET 18:09
RISE 05:28	SET 16:59
THURSDAY, JAN. 11	
RISE 06:45	SET 18:10
RISE 06:31	SET 18:05

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	23
Mysuru	29	21
Bengaluru	29	19

Bengaluru Today
29°C A dry weather to prevail/ Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm and humid.Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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ED raids premises of Congress MLA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials of the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Monday conducted simultaneous raids at the residence and offices of Malur Congress MLA K.Y. Nanjegowda. The raids were still on Monday evening.

Recently, the BJP had alleged large-scale irregularities in recruitment at Kolar Chickballapur Milk Union Ltd. (KOCHIMUL), of which Mr. Nanjegowda is the president. Multiple teams carried out the raids not only at the residence and offices of Mr. Nanjegowda but also searched the residence of his associates and the stone-crushing unit owned by his son, amidst security. The officials seized documents and other electronic gadgets.

Government of Jharkhand
Urban Development and Housing Department
Dhanbad Municipal Corporation, Dhanbad

e-Procurement Tender
Notice No. DMC/30/2023-24
NIT No.- DMC/30/2023-24 Date :- 06.01.2024

1.	Name of the work	**Rejuvenation and Construction of STP for Raja Talab Jharia under DMC, Dhanbad**
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 05,09,45,900.00
3.	Tender Fee and Bid Security	Tender document fee : - INR 25,000/- (Twenty Five Thousand Only) Non-Refundable. Bid Security: Rs **05,09,459.00** (Rupees Five Lakh Nine Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Nine Only).
4.	Time of Completion	365 Days
5.	Date / Time of Publication of Tender on Website	12.01.2024 at 03:00 PM
6.	Start Date of Submission of Bids	12.01.2024 at 03:00 PM
7.	Last Date / Time for receipt of bids Online	30.01.2024 (On line) till 03:00 PM
8.	Date and Time of Technical Bid Opening Online.	31.01.2024 (On line) from 03:00 PM
9.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Chief Executive Officer, Dhanbad Municipal corporation,Dhanbad.
10.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	**8986892064**
11.	e-mail id	**dhanbadmunicipalcorporationadm@gmail.com**

NOTE:- (i) Only e-Tenders will be accepted. Further details can be seen on website http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in.
(ii) Contractor should be registered in Class (I) First class as per NIT
(iii) Estimated Cost / Quantity May Vary
(iv) Any Change/Information can be seen on Website on http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in.

S/d-
Executive Engineer,
Dhanbad Municipal Corporation, Dhanbad
PR 315360 (Urban Development and Housing) 23-24 (D)

RAIL LAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(A Statutory Authority under Ministry of Railways Government of India)
Unit No. 702-B, 7th Floor, Konnectus Tower-II, DMRC Building, Ajmeri Gate, New Delhi-110002

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-TENDER
(RFP Notice No. RLDA/2024/RFP/CD/CRD-02 Dated 05.01.2024)
GRANT OF LEASE FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF 2.156 HA OF BOULEVARD ROAD RAILWAY COLONY, DELHI FOR 99 YEARS

Site Description	Area of the Site	FSI	Bid Security	Reserve Price
Boulevard Road Railway Colony, Delhi	21568.35 Sqm.	Maximum Permissible FSI on the subject site is 0.75 on Gross Area of Plot	Rs. 1.55 Crore	Rs. 318 Crore

Pre-bid meeting: 19th January, 2024 at 11:30 Hrs.
Venue: RLDA Office, Unit No. 702-B, 7th Floor, Konnectus Tower-II, DMRC Building, Ajmeri Gate, New Delhi-110002
Last Date of Submission of E-bid Online: 16.02.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs.
For Further details of the project, please visit our website **www.rlda.indianrailways.gov.in** or on e-procurement portal **www.tenderwizard.in/RLDA** under the heading **'e-tender'**
For any clarifications, may please contact: -

Joint General Manager/Project-4 M: 99901 14988 jgmprj4@rlda.railnet.gov.in	General Manager/Project-3 M: 97172 75534 gm.project3@rlda.railnet.gov.in	Joint General Manager/ Marketing, M: 78781 82717 mgrmarketingrlda@gmail.com	Consultant/RLDA Mr. Sulabh Goel, M: 98999 11835 sulabh.goel@in.ey.com

Note:- Any Corrigendum or Addendum shall be published only on above mentioned Websites. AM/Tender, (M) 87505 54811

Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha
No. 113, R. V. Road, V. V. Puram, Bangalore-560 004
Phone: 25722152/153 / 26601152/53 / 9482422153
E-mail: sssbn2bmh@sreenidhibank.com

PUBLIC NOTICE - POSSESSION NOTICE

APPENDIX-IV
(See Rule 8(1)) r/w Sec. 13(4)(a)

Smt. Hema.K

Sri. Raju S.P

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha**, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Central Act No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers (conferred under section 13(12), 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 06/11/2023 calling upon the Borrower **Smt. Hema.K, W/o Raju S.P, Residing at No.319, Radiant Shine Apartment, Opp. Indian Oil Petrol Bunk, Yelenahalli Village,Begur Koppa Road, Bangalore-560068**. demanding to repay the amount of **Rs.10,85,837/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Eighty Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Seven only)** only together with Interest and costs thereon, being the loan amount due from them, **within 60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower has failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and mortgager and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property owned Sri. Raju S.P mortgaged to the bank is described in schedule herein below,together with all rights to transfer by way of Lease, assignment or sale for realising the above mentioned amount (Secured Asset), in exercise of the powers conferred on his under Section 13(4)(a) of the said Act read with Rule-8 of the said Rules on this **8th day of January 2024.**

The borrower and mortgager in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha for a sum of **Rs.11,10,293/- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Ten Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety Three only)** as on **08/01/2024** together with interest and costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Vacant site.No.83 carved out of converted land in Sy.No.153/9, 153/19, 153/20 and 153/21, situated in the Layout known as "SLN City" at Thavarekere Village, Thavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 12 meters, North to South 9 meters, totally measuring 108 Sq.mtrs, and bounded on **East by:** Site No.74, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Site No.82 and **South by:** Site No.84.

Date : 08/01/2024
Place : Bengaluru
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer Public Works Division Bhokar, Dist Nanded
E-TENDER NOTICE NO.32/ 2023-24

Online Tender (e-tender) in Form C form for the in Nanded District total, 2 (Two) works are invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division Bhokar, Dist Nanded (Phone No.02467-222658) on Government of Maharashtra Electronic Tender Management System. From the registered contractor in appropriate class of Public works Department of Maharashtra State. The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tender portal https://mahatenders.gov.in / on sub portal www.mahapwd.gov.in as under.

Note: 1. Details of the tender documents are available on e-tendering https://mahatenders.gov.in / and www.mahapwd.gov.in website of the Government of Maharashtra.
2. If there are any changes in the tender notice, then the information will be display on the website.
3. Executive Engineer, Public Works Division Bhokar, Dist Nanded has reserved the right to accept or reject tenders.

Sd/-
Prashant Nilkanth Kore
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division Bhokar Dist. Nanded
DGIPR/2023/2024/6441

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, BBMP,
K.R. Pura Division, Old Madras Road,
K.R. Pura, Bengaluru-560036
No.: EE/KRP/TND/05/2023-24 **Date: 08.01.2024**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Short Term Tender Notification)
(Single Cover System)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer (K.R. Pura) invites **Item Rate** tenders from eligible tenderers for the works details in the table given below. The Tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the table in appropriate class registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike / CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / any State or Central Govt. Organization.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Est Cost in Lakhs	EMD Amount (in Rs)
1	Providing watermens for water supply facilities through existing borewells to publics of Horamavu Village partial, Horamavu Agara partial, Geddalahalli, Kothanuru, K. Narayanapura, Nagareshwara Nagenahalli, Kyalasanahalli surrounding extention area in Horamavu **Ward No. 81.**	30.00	60,000/-
2	Supply of watermens through outsourcing agencies or KIONICS for water supply facilities to through existing borewells to publics of Horamavu Village partial, Horamavu Agara partial, Babsabpalya, Chalakere Villages and surrounding Extention area in Babasabpalya **Ward No. 82.**	30.00	60,000/-
3	Supply of watermens through outsourcing agencies or KIONICS for water supply facilities to through existing borewells to publics of in Kalkere, Channasandra, Kanakanagara, Banjara Layout surrounding area in Kalkere **Ward No. 83.**	12.00	30,000/-
4	Supply of watermens through outsourcing agencies or KIONICS for water supply facilities to through existing borewells to publics of Vigneshwara Layout surrounding area in Ramamurthynagara **Ward No. 84. (SC Reserve)**	7.50	9,375/-

Calendar of events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. **(2)** Last date for tender queries & clarifications is **18.01.2024** upto **4:00 p.m. (3)** Last Date for submission of tender documents on or before **20.01.2024** at **4:00 p.m. (4)** Tenders will be opened on the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** in the office of the Executive Engineer, K.R. Pura Division on **22.01.2024** at **4:00 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, K.R. Pura Division, BBMP

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. BE-29-2023-24-OT-27
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Description of Work	Appx. Value
Replacement of energy meters with smart metering system for staff quarters in Bengaluru-Jolarpettai section.	Rs. 1,55,92,084/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 15:00 hrs. of 25.01.2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
PUB/610/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Bengaluru**
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 01/MYS/2024
Dated: 03.01.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works:

SL	Item of Works	Approx. Value
1	Mysuru Division: Preparation of soil exploration report, Collection of Field Data, Preparation of Concept Plan Drawing for Elimination of LCs (120 Nos).	Rs. 2,18,16,542/-
2	Assistant Divisional Engineer/Shivamogga Town Sub Division: Supply of Drinking water in tanker to stations, colonies, coach watering and washing between Birur (Excl.) - Talguppa section and Kadur (Excl.) - Chikkamagaluru section for One Year.	Rs. 14,84,130/-
3	**Sub Work-I (a)-** Chikjajur-Karajgi Section Repairs to cess at locations 340/680-920, 344/700-345/500, 350/300-351/200, 353/400-356/000, 389/700-390/000 (UP) for a total length of 4.84Km (excl. 364/400-365/100 (UP), 366/100-366/500(UP), 384/700-385/900(UP) and from km. 387/100-388/900 (UP) = 3.20kms) **Sub Work-I (b)-** Side Drainage in cutting. **Sub Work-II (a)-** Assistant Divisional Engineer / Chitradurga:- Strengthening of bank by providing standard width from km 226/00 to km. 276/400 at scattered locations under Senior Section Engineer/P.Way/ Shivani. **Sub Work-II (b)-** Side Drainage in cutting.	Rs. 3,49,38,377/-
4	**Sub Work-I:-** Chikjajur - Construction of Type II staff quarters (TY-II 10 units). **Sub Work-II:-** Ranibennur - Construction of Type II staff quarters at Ranibennur (TY-II 10 units).	Rs. 3,65,29,629/-
5	Krishnaraja Nagar: Provision of Additional Running Line in Mysuru-Hassan Line. **Sub Work-I-** Linking of Track. **Sub Work-II:-** Welding of Rails. **Sub Work-III:-** Supply of Ballast.	Rs. 95,94,253/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 11:00 hrs. of 25.01.2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-Ord Mysuru
PUB/609/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **Mr. V.R.LOKESH,** Son of Mr.V.Ramaiah, intends to purchase the immovable property described in the schedule hereunder from its owner, **1.M/s. SMR INFRA, 2a. Mr.S.NARENDRA KUMAR, 2b.Mr.ONKAR SINGH,**. Any person/s having any claim, title and interest over the schedule property or any objections to the proposed purchase, may file their objections in writing along with copies of supporting documents to the undersigned within **10 days** from the date of this publication and a copy of objections to our below mentioned office, failing which my clients will be advised to go ahead and complete the formalities for registered Sale Deed.

:: SCHEDULE ::
All that piece and parcel of the undeveloped Converted land bearing New **Sy.No.4/7, (Old Sy.No.4/1), having BBMP Katha No.3353/4/7,** measuring 0-08 guntas, Kharab land of 1/2 gunta, situated at **Gottigere Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore,** and bounded on the:
East by : Road (earlier land in Sy.No.4/2);
West by : Land in Sy.No.4/1;
North by : Land in Sy.No.4/1;
South by : Land in Sy.No.4/1;

SAHAI KUMAR, Advocate
#311, 2nd Floor, 3rd Main, 3rd Phase, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore-560078 Mob : 9845090974

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the NOTICE of the General Public, that **Smt. Poornima G.K.,** aged about 39 years, w/o. Lakshmisha N.S., presently R/at #44, Near 1st Cross, Srigandhadakavalu, Hegganahalli, Cross, Bangalore 560 091 is the full & absolute owner of the Property bearing site No. 288 with E-Khatha No. 150200201600620810 situated at Madanayakanahalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, which is morefully described in the schedule below, having purchased from previous owner/M. Chandru under Sale Deed dated 02/03/2015 registered as Document No. MDP-1-04885/2014-15 of Book I stored in C.D. No. MDPD 183 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Madanayakanahalli, Bangalore.

It is further notified to the General Public that the earlier owner/Nagaraj Hegde having acquired the schedule property from his previous owner/ Thimmaraju under sale deed dated 04/06/2011 registered as Document No. DSP-1-01659/2011-12 of Book I stored in C.D. No. DSPD 90 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Dasanapura, was lost. A Police complaint in this regard was lodged with Jurisdictional Police/Bangalore City vide Lost Report No. 0876150/2024 dated 05/01/2024. It is hereby requested that if any person/s comes across or finds the same, he/she/they are requested to hand over the same to the below mentioned address and they will be compensated accordingly.

The General Public is hereby further cautioned that if anybody deals with the Schedule Property with any person/s based on the misplaced/lost document mentioned above, it is at their own risk and cost and such person/s will not derive any title over the Schedule Property and in such an event they have no claim of whatsoever nature against Poornima G.K nor against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of property bearing **Site No. 288** with E-Khatha No. 150200201600620810 Assessment No. 92 Old Assessment No. 2542 with property No. 2542/288 situated at **Madanayakanahalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** measuring East to West 40 feet, North to South 30 feet in all 1200 square feet & bounded on:-
East by : Road; West by : Site No. 307; North by : Site No. 289 & South by : Site No. 287:

Shri. G.N. HARISH, Advocate,
312, Ground Floor, 21st 'A' Cross,
VI Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 082.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, KAVITHA Sunil Rao, W/o. Sunil C.M.Rao, residing at #50, 3rd Cross, 5th Main, KEB layout, Sanjaynagar, Bengaluru-560094, declare that correct name of my father is Paul Adarsh Bassi but in my SSLC Marks Card my father's name has been erroneously recorded as Jaipal, vide affidavit dated: 05/01/2024 sworn before Notary A.Gerard, Bengaluru.

I, PUSHKARA Chandrasekar, D/o Chandrasekar R, R/at No.39, 2nd main road, 3rd A cross, Munnireddy layout, Horamavu, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to Sarah Jennifer, vide affidavit dated: 08.01.2024, before Notary L.Gopalakrishna, Bengaluru.

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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, MENDA Sreelakshmi, W/o Chandrashekar, R/a No.106, Vaddarapalya, Horamavu, Bangalore, Karnataka-560043, hereby state that both the names Menda Sreelakshmi and Sri Lakshmi C belongs to one and the same person i.e., me only vide affidavit dt: 04.01.2024 sworn before Notary V.Rajashekhara, B'lore

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my Client Smt. SURYA VASUNDHARA RALLAPALLI Aged about 50 years, Residing at Villa No.118, Renaissance Nature Walk, Ayyappa Nagar, Bangalore-560036, is intending to purchase Property from Mr. SANJIB KUMAR RAKSHIT S/O Sri. Nimai Chandra Rakshit Aged about 51 years, and Mrs. MAHUA RAKSHIT W/O Sri. Sanjib Kumar Rakshit, Aged about 46 years Both are Residing at "LUMBINI", No-44, 1st Cross, N.R.Layout, MURUGESHPALYA, Bangalore-560017, bearing Site No.99, BDA Katha No. Kam.Aaa (Poo)/99/Chikkkabellandur/2016-17, situated in residential approved lay out formed in converted Sy.No.22, Sy.No.20/1, Sy.No.20/2 and Sy. No.20/3, known as "GREEN VISTA" of Chikkabellandur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes under Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, measuring: East to West (60'2'+60'0")/2feet, North to South (44.'2'+40'0')/2 feet, Totally measuring 2526.85 Sq. feet land, and 850 square feet of Constructed House thereon, consisting of 2 BHK, has entered into an Agreement of Sale. If any person/s having any claim, right, title or interest over the above said property may contact the undersigned and file their objections or claim if any, within 7 days from the date of this Public Notice. If no claim or objection is received within the stipulated period my client will proceed with a registration of Sale Deed. No claim will be entertained thereafter.
K.PRABHAKAR, M.A., LL.B (SPL)., Advocate, No.42, 1st A Cross, Muneswara Layout, Ayyappa Nagar, K.R.Puram, Bangalore - 560036.PHONE: 9241763918.

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PULSE-CHECK

GETTY IMAGES

How surgical care in India is a neglected part of public health

When it comes to lack of access to surgical care, India is not an anomaly but the archetype for low-and middle-income countries. Over the last seven decades, India's focus on surgical care has been limited, with little attention in the most recent National Health Policy

Siddhesh Zadey

India's Health Management Information System classifies surgeries which do not require general or spinal anaesthesia as 'minor' surgeries. In 2019-2020, the system, which covers most publicly owned health facilities in the country, recorded more than 14 million minor surgeries, which accounted for about a quarter of all surgeries.

LCoGS indicators

The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery (LCoGS) deems this to be much less than the actual need. In 2015, LCoGS researchers found that New Zealand, which has universal health coverage, had 5,000 surgeries per 1,00,000 people. With a population of about 1.4 billion, the rate of surgeries in India is somewhere between 166 and 3,646 surgeries per 1,00,000, depending on the setting, population, and other factors.

LCoGS has proposed that countries, particularly low- and middle-income countries, collect and monitor high-quality data for six indicators – population within two hours of a surgical care facility (timely geographical access); the number of surgeons, obstetricians, and anaesthetists per 1,00,000 people (Surgical, Anesthesia and Obstetrics (SOA) workforce density); the number of essential and emergency surgeries per 1,00,000 people (surgical volumes/rates); mortality within 30 days of surgery per 1,000 procedures (perioperative mortality rate); the population at risk of impoverishment due to seeking surgery; and finally the population at risk of catastrophic expenditure (over 10% of their annual household expenses) due to seeking surgery.

Together, these indicators build a picture of surgeries as a part of healthcare at the population level and on the ground. For example, for a 'minor surgery' that I had in my childhood, I had to travel only a few minutes to reach the hospital. Both the surgeon (my mother) and the anaesthetist (my father) were readily available and had the skills and resources for the surgery. I had close follow-up for about a month after without any fatal or non-fatal adverse outcomes. I could also easily afford the surgery. These circumstances are highly exceptional.

Right to access surgery

Millions of children and adults around India, regardless of the severity of their condition, injury, need or affordability, are forced to treat the basic right of surgery as a luxury. In fact, five billion people around the world are deprived of the fundamental right to access surgery when required. More than 90% of rural Indians are estimated to not have access to surgery when required. India's limited data on LCoGS indicators reveals several reasons for this.

First, many people are unable to reach the hospital on time. A lack of facilities, poor road network, lack of vehicles (including ambulances), etc. contribute to the lack of timely access. Such access problems are more common in rural and hilly areas that together house more than two-thirds of the population.

Second, even if someone is able to reach a facility, there might not be the necessary resources for treatment. A surgeon, an anaesthetist, and some other clinical staff are essential to perform surgery. The size of the SOA workforce is small in several parts of India, especially beyond metropolitan and tier-II cities, and at crisis-levels in the rural public health system. Third, the capacity to perform enough surgeries is also undermined by disparities based on where one lives, how much one is able to pay, etc. The met need for major surgeries is less than 7% in rural India.

Fourth, the quality of surgical care determines whether someone will have a safe outcome. This depends on the training of the surgeons, the availability of necessary equipment, and the presence of appropriate peri-operative care, among other factors. The mortality rate is a sensitive indicator of safety – but data on perioperative mortality is heterogeneous and missing in several instances.

Fifth, due to the absence of universal healthcare coverage and limited surgical-care capability among public health facilities that provide free or subsidised care, the financial impact on people forced to seek care in private hospitals can be devastating. More than 60% of surgery patients in rural India face catastrophic expenses and several thousand risk impoverishment.

So when it comes to lack of access to surgical care, India is not an anomaly but the archetype for low- and middle-income countries.

Gaps in surgical care

India's current surgical system gets by on civilian initiatives and subnational programmes – including countless surgeon-led small private establishments and government teaching and public district hospitals – that plug systemic gaps in surgical care.

Noteworthy examples include rural surgeons gathered under the Association for Rural Surgeons of India; emergency and trauma care, including free ambulance services in multiple States, by the EMRI Green Health Services; and organisations such as the Society for Education, Action, and Research in Community Health (SEARCH) and Jan Swasthya Sahyog (JSS), which serve tribal populations in difficult-to-reach areas. Individual surgeons working on technological innovations and groups such as the Global Surgery India Hub, which strengthen research networks, have also contributed to improving surgical care. However, systemic gaps persist, and they must be eliminated if India is to improve its performance on the LCoGS indicators.

Surgical action plan

The main issue is a lack of problem recognition. Lack of surgical care access, preventable disease burden due to surgery, and the economic toll of surgery on society are still not considered to be a part of public health in the mainstream. This neglect persists in health policymaking and planning.

Over the last seven decades, India's focus on surgical care has been limited, with little attention in the most recent National Health Policy (2017). Since the publication of LCoGS, many countries in Africa and South Asia have initiated National Surgical Obstetric Anaesthesia Plans (NSOAPs) or equivalent policies. India currently has no NSOAP. The lack of investments in data for monitoring and evaluation of surgical care indicators has also been a major roadblock. So, using existing data, integrating surgical care data in existing surveys and systems, and building new dedicated data collection mechanisms are the ways forward.

Siddhesh Zadey is co-founder of the non-profit Association for Socially Applicable Research (ASAR) India and chair of the G4 Alliance SOTA Care in the South Asia Working Group.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on Indian achievers on foreign shores on the occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas that is observed on January 9

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Which famous CEO wrote the bestseller *Hit Refresh*?

QUESTION 2
How does one better know Nimarata Randhawa, the first Indian American to serve in a U.S. Presidential cabinet?

QUESTION 3
Named as one of the seven 'Unsung Heroes of the 20th century', he is considered a pioneer in the field of fiber optics. Name this legendary Sikh scientist.

QUESTION 4
The mother was shortlisted for the Booker Prize thrice and the daughter won the coveted award for her work *The Inheritance of Loss*. Name this noted literary duo.

QUESTION 5
After holding many leadership roles, he is the current president of the World Bank Group. Name this India-born American business executive.

QUESTION 6
Name the famous sculptor behind the famous Cloud Gate in Chicago and ArcelorMittal Orbit, the largest piece of public art in Britain

Visual question:
Name this man whom investment guru Warren Buffett dubbed as 'one of the best minds in the world'. REUTERS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This newspaper publisher is credited with the invention of the QWERTY keyboard for the earliest typewriters. **Ans: Christopher Sholes**
2. The plausible explanation for the QWERTY layout for the type-writer. **Ans: To facilitate the work of early adopters such as telegraph operators who used Morse code**
3. The promoters to whom the patent for "Type-Writer" was sold. **Ans: James Densmore and George Washington Newton Yost**
4. The firm which commercialised the typewriter. **Ans: E. Remington and Sons**
5. The person who designed one of the first Devanagari script based typewriters. **Ans: V. M. Atre**
Visual: Identify this keyboard layout. **Ans: Dvorak keyboard layout**
Early Birds: nobody answered all the questions correctly

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. K. Prasanna Kumar, KPHB Colony, Hyderabad, wants to know how to use the word 'aloof."

" 'Aloof' means 'cool and remote in character, unconcerned'.

He doesn't mix with others. He's always very aloof.

'To stand aloof' or 'to keep aloof' means 'to take no part in something'.

He kept aloof from the function."

"Mr. P. V. Sivakumar, VMKV Engineering College, Salem, wants to know the difference between 'recant' and 'repudiate'."

" 'Recant' means 'to withdraw or renounce beliefs, pronouncements, etc. formerly held'. 'To repudiate' means 'to refuse to have anything to do with, to disown or cast off publicly'.

He repudiated the charge as untrue.
She repudiated her daughter.
He recanted what he had said earlier.

"Mr. A. Madhusudhana Reddy, Sanjay Gandhi Colony, Vizag. wants to know the meaning of 'red tape'."

"'Red tape' means 'excessive bureaucracy, especially in public business'. 'Red tape' has a bad connotation. Red tape is 'official formality or rigid rules and regulations carried to excess'. In government offices, papers are tied with red tape. The expression was first used by Charles Dickens but it was Carlyle who popularised it by bitterly criticising red tape. 'To have a red tape mind' is to adhere rigidly to rules. In India, government offices use red tape not only for tying up files but also men and women whose petitions, complaints, etc. are in the files. They get into knots once they are put into the files!"

"Mr. P. Thanga Kuberan, Selvizer Street, Tuticorin, wants to know the exact meaning of 'bully for you!'"

" 'Bully for you' is used 'as an expression of often ironic congratulation'. It means 'well done, good'. But there is a tinge of irony in it.

He finished eating, bully for him!

'Bully' has several meanings. A bully is a person who hurts or frightens those that are weaker.

He is a notorious bully.

To bully means 'to frighten or hurt a weaker person'.

He bullied her into doing this.
Get away from here! You can't bully me.

'Bully-boy' is 'a rough, violent man, especially one who is paid to frighten or hurt others'.

He is a bully-boy.
I don't like his bully-boy behaviour.

'To bullyrag' is 'to torment or bully, especially by mocking or playing cruel practical jokes'.

The original meaning of 'bully' was 'sweetheart'. The word is from Dutch 'boel', a lover. Later it was influenced by Dutch 'bul', a bull. In Henry V, Shakespeare uses bully in the sense of 'sweetheart'.

I kiss his dirty shoe, and from my heart strings
I love the lovely bully. (IV. 1)

Published in The Hindu on August 28, 1990.

Word of the day

Felicity:
pleasing and appropriate manner or style (especially manner or style of expression); state of well-being characterised by emotions ranging from contentment to intense joy

Synonym: happiness

Usage: *We wish you many years of felicity.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/felicitypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fɪ'lɪsɪti/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

School textbook revision committee to submit its report by January-end

State govt. had tasked the panel to revise school textbooks for 2024-25, following which new curriculum framework and textbooks would be drafted under Karnataka State Education Policy

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The revision of school textbooks is in the final stage and the Textbook Revision Committee headed by Manjunatha G. Hegade will submit its final report by January-end. The committee will hold its final meeting in the second week of January and submit its report by end-of-month.

The government has tasked the committee to revise school textbooks for one academic year 2024-25, following which new curriculum framework and textbooks will be drafted under the Karnataka State Education Policy, also being drafted now.

"Since the government has already abandoned controversial texts including during the previous revision and asked teachers not to teach these lessons. The government has also substituted them with other lessons. We haven't made any major changes to the textbooks. We have only added a few lessons and deleted some based on the curriculum, quantum of study material among other criteria. We have added a few classic poetry as supplementary reading and linked Kannada language lessons and grammar lessons in the textbook," said Mr. Hegade. He further said that there were several grammatical errors in the textbooks and it took 15 days just to correct these errors.

The Textbook Revision Committee also roped in 15 teachers presently teaching children in the State's schools and consulted them on all revisions and changes made. FILE PHOTO

The Textbook Revision Committee also roped in 15 teachers presently teaching children in the State's schools and consulted them on all revisions and changes made. "No decision was taken unilaterally except by consensus of subject experts. Even the government did not give us any suggestions during the process," Mr. Hegade said.

"The textbooks have been revised so as to reduce the burden of students to facilitate joyful learning. During the revision we have taken care not to impose any ideologies on the children. Hence, the revised texts will be student friendly and learner friendly," Mr. Hegade said.

The Textbook Revision Committee has opined that the recent announcement by the State government on dividing annual textbooks into two, to reduce the weight of school bags was "unnecessary". "The weight of textbooks is well within the prescribed norms for weight of school bags. However, the weight of school bags go beyond the prescribed limits due to private schools prescribing extra books. We will revise the textbooks as one book. The government can split them into two if it is keen on the proposal," Mr. Hegade said.

Three-day conference on floriculture to begin today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, in collaboration with the Society for Promotion of Horticulture, Bengaluru, and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Delhi, will organise a three-day national conference on trends and prospects of Floriculture in India from Tuesday. It aims to create a platform for exchange of ideas among the scientific fraternity, entrepreneurs, farmers, students, and so on from ICAR institutes, State agricultural varsities, and Krishi Vigyan Kendras. T. Janakiram, V-C, Dr. Y.S.R. Horticultural University, Tadepalligudem, A.P., will inaugurate the event at 10 a.m. on ICAR-IIHR premises in Hesaraghatta.

HC expresses concern over not invoking penal action under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in manual scavenging cases

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday said that the authorities are either not invoking the penal provision of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, or not taking it to logical end even if the provision was invoked against accused when members of SC/ST communities are used for the prohibited manual scavenging.

"It is a common knowledge that either no serious steps are taken to see that the provisions of SC/ST (PoA) Act are pressed into service or in case even if such provisions are pressed into service, unfortunately, the outcome is either minimal or at the level of zero per cent," the court observed.

"We except that cases booked for using persons from SC/ST communities be taken to its logical end by ensuring that the accused are convicted and this can be achieved only by taking the cases seriously by all concerned - the probe agency, the public prosecutor, and the adjudicating authorities," observed a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit.

The Bench made these observations in its order while noticing that the police had not invoked Section 3(j) of the SC/ST (PoA) Act against the accused in a recent case registered on the death of two persons while engaged for manual scavenging.

The Bench was hearing three separate PIL petitions, one recently invoked by the court *suo motu*, and two others filed by the All India Council for Trade Unions and the High Court Legal Services Committee, respectively, in continuation of manual scavenging despite its ban in law and rehabilitation of those engaged in such activities.

Not invoking the provisions of SC/ST (PoA) Act is a serious neglect on the part of the authorities when the persons from particular communities are engaged for manual scavenging despite ban imposed in law, the Bench said while expressing concern over 'zero conviction' under this provision of the law.

The High Court directed the government to file its responses on the issue of not invoking this provision along with actions taken to comply with various directions issued by the court earlier and also the directions of the Supreme Court.

Police summon actors for partying late

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Subramanya Nagar police have issued notices to several Kannada film stars and others in connection with a late night party at Jetlag pub on Dr. Rajkumar road recently, which according to the police was not only in violation of the deadline but also led to ruckus in the night.

The police, who are under fire for allowing the late night party, swung into action after City Police Commissioner pulled them up and directed them to take action. Following this, the Subramanya Nagar police registered a case against the pub owner and manager charging them under Excise Act and Karnataka Police Act for violating the deadline, while summoning the accused for questioning.

The police have now summoned actors Darshan, Dhananjaya, Abhishek Ambareesh, and producer Rockline Venkatesh, and others for partying late. They were celebrating the success of Darshan-starrer movie *Kaatera*.

Gang booked for harassing techies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a case of road rage harassment, a software engineer and four of his female colleagues, who were returning from an offsite assignment, were attacked by a group of four men who tried to extort money on Sarjapura-Attibele Road on Sunday.

The incident occurred at around 7.30 p.m. when Charan Pal Singh, who was driving his car, noticed the accused intercept the car and park their scooters to block the way. They walked to the driver and started banging on the windshield, shouting, and hurling abuses to open the window, accusing him of hitting their vehicle.

There was no accident and the attack was without provocation and with the intent to harm and rob us, Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*. "I tried to reason with them asking them to come to the police station, but they were in no mood to listen. No one came to our help," he said.

Sensing trouble and fearing for the safety of his female colleagues, Mr. Singh drove the car dragging the scooter for a few yards before speeding away, reaching the police station, and filing the complaint. The accused followed them and reached the station accusing him of being drunk. However, Mr. Singh showed the dashboard camera recording, based on which the police detained the accused.

The police said that two people have been arrested under Section 341 (wrongful restrain) of IPC.

There was a similar case on the same stretch of the road in October, said Ashok Mruthyunjaya, Organising Secretary, AAP, Bengaluru.

HAL to participate in 10th edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) will participate in the 10th edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show 2024 from January 9 to 13 at Gandhinagar.

One of the major attractions at the HAL stall will be the Su-30 MKI aircraft, which has been modified indigenously for integration of air-to-ground BrahMos missile manufactured in India. The missile weighs 2,500 kg and has a range of nearly 300 km.

HAL has to date manufactured 220 Su-30 MKI aircraft and has overhauled over 100 Su-30 MKI.

HAL's Prachand Light Combat Helicopter will be on static display. A Make-in-India product built with private participation, LCH is the only attack helicopter in the world which can land and take off at an altitude of 5,000 m (16,400 ft) with a considerable load of weapons and fuel meeting the specific requirements of Indian Armed Forces.

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Dhow Cruise, Dubai City, Abu Dhabi City, Burj Khalifa, Desert Safari, Dubai Frame, Global Village, etc.
Dep Date 2024: FEB 1, 15. 29. MAR 7, 14, 21. APR 4, 18. MAY 2, 16. July 4, 18. Aug 8, 22. Sep 12, 26. Oct 10, 17, 24. Nov 14, 28. Dec 5, 19.
SINGAPORE - MALAYSIA - THAILAND
4/5/7/8/11/15 DAYS
Universal Studios, Sea Aquarium, Sentosa Island, Garden By The Bay, Genting Highland, Batu Caves, Twin Tower,
Putrajaya City Tour, Coral Island, Pattaya Beach, Nong Nooch Village, Safari World, Dolphin & Sea Lion Show, Bangkok City Tour, Etc
Dep Dates 2024: Feb 5, 26. Mar 4, 18. Apr 1, 15, 29. May 6, 20, June 3, 10, 24. July 8, 22, Aug 5, 19, 26. Sep 9, 23, 30 Oct 7, 21. Nov 4, 18, 25 . Dec 2, 16.
BALI - 5/7 DAYS
Denpasar, Nusa Penida Island, Kintamani, Ubud, Garuda Wisnu Cultural Park, Tanah Lot,
Beraton Lake, Ulun Danu, Taman Ayun, Tanjung Benoa Beach.
Dep. Date : 2024: FEB 5, 19. MAR 4, 18. APR 8, 22. MAY 6, 20. JUN 10, 24. July 8, 22. Aug 12, 26. Sep 9, 23. Oct 7, 21. Nov 11, 25. Dec 2, 16.
SRILANKA RAMAYANA TRAILS- 5/7/8 DAYS
Ramayana Temples, Manavari Temple, Muneshwaram Temple, Trincomalee, Spice Garden, Matale,
Sigirya Rock Photostop, Kandy, Tooth Relic, Ramboda Hanuman, Tea Factory, Nuwara Eliya, Ashoka Vatika,
Sita Agnipariksha, Turtle Hatchery, Bentota Beach, Madu River Safari, Vibhishana Temple, Colombo City Tour
Dep Date: 2024: FEB 1, 15. 29. MAR 7, 21, 28. APR 4, 11, 18, 25. MAY 9, 16. June 20. July 18. Aug 8, 15, 29. Sep 12, 19, 26. Oct 3, 17, 31. Nov 7, 21, 28. Dec 5, 19.
BEST OF EUROPE-9/13 DAYS
France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Vatican City, Italy.
DEP DATES: 2024: Mar 22. Apr 5, 19. May 3, 17, 31. June 14, 28. July 5, 19. Aug 9, 23. Sep 13, 27. Oct 4, 18. Nov 8, 15.
EAST EUROPE - 11 DAYS
GERMANY: Munich, BMW Welt, Berlin, Dresden, CZECH REPUBLIC: Prague, Charles Bridge, AUSTRIA: Vienna, Schönbrunn Palace,
SLOVAKIA: Bratislava, HUNGARY: Budapest, Cruise On River Danube, CROATIA: Zagreb, SLOVENIA: Ljubljana, ZELL AM SEE.
DEP DATES: 2024: Apr 1, 15, 29. May 13, 27. June 10, 24. July 1, 15. Aug 5, 19. Sep 9, 23, 30. Oct 14, 28. Nov 11.
UNITED KINGDOM-10 DAYS
London, England, Scotland, Oxford, Ireland, Manchester, Lake Windermere, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Belfast, Dublin
Dep Date 2024: Apr 8, 22. May 6, 20. June 3, 17, 24. July 8, 29. Aug 12. Sep 2, 16, 30. Oct 7, 21.Nov 4
SCANDINAVIA-10 DAYS
Finland, Helsinki Sweden, Stockholm Norway, Nutshell Oslo, Denmark Copenhagen
Dep Date 2024: May 16, 30. June 13, 27. July 12, 26. Aug 8, 22. Sep 5, 19.

INBRIEF

Water contamination claims one life; three suspended

Housing and Minorities Welfare Minister and in-charge of Vijayanagara district B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan has recommended the suspension of three officials, including Town Municipality Commissioner Bandi Vaddar, in connection with the death of a woman and 35 persons taking ill due to consumption of contaminated water in Kariganur Ward of Hosapete Town Municipality in Vijayanagar district.

Two others who were placed under suspension are Assistant Executive Engineer Satish and Junior Engineer Khaji.

The Minister also issued instructions to keep those three officials under suspension and hold an inquiry.

'Declare Basavanna as cultural ambassador of State'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has assured the delegation of Veerashaiva-Lingayat Mutts' seers and progressive thinkers that the Karnataka Cabinet will take a decision on declaring 12th Century social reformer Basavanna as Karnataka's cultural ambassador or icon.

The Chief Minister on Monday received a delegation of seers and progressive thinkers and discussed their plea on declaring the social reformer as the State's cultural ambassador.

"Personally, I have no objection of declaring it. But the Cabinet has to take a decision," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Ministers M.B. Patil and Eshwar Khandre and Basava Samithi president Aravind Jatti, writers G.S. Siddaramaiah, Banjagere Jayaprakash, and others were part of the delegation.

In October 2023, Industries Minister M.B. Patil had said that there was nothing wrong in naming Karnataka as "Basava Nadu" (Land of Basava) and declare Basavanna as Karnataka's cultural icon or leader.

High Court bans mining within 20-km radius of KRS in Mandya district

The ban will apply even on existing mining licences that were already granted by the authorities, and will be in force till the statutory study on dam safety is conducted by an expert body

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A file photo of the KRS. The High Court of Karnataka has observed that the dam serves as the main water source for lakhs of people for drinking and irrigation purposes.

The High Court of Karnataka has banned all types of mining and quarrying within a 20-km radius of the historic Krishnarajasagar (KRS) in Mandya district.

The ban will apply even for those mining activities within a 20-km radius for which permissions/licences were already granted by the authorities, or already operating in the area, or were permitted on the orders of the court in earlier rounds of litigation, the High Court said.

The court also said that the ban will be in force till the completion of a study by experts and the decision to be taken by the State committee on dam safety, set up as per the provisions of the Dam Safety Act, 2021.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit passed the interim order by taking *suo motu* cognisance of requiring a study as per the law to access possible danger to the dam of mining activities.

The Bench took cognisance of dam safety while hearing a petition filed by C.G. Kumar, a land owner from Chinakurali village of Pandavapura taluk in Mandya district. The petitioner had questioned a restriction imposed in May 2023, by the Deputy Commissioner, Mandya district, against using the land for quarrying and mining as one of the restrictions prevented him from using his agricultural land for quarrying even after its conversion for non-agricultural purposes.

Noticing that the court, in certain petitions earlier, had permitted mining within a 20-km radius of the dam, the Bench said that such an order came to be passed as the Dam Safety Act, 2021, was not brought to its notice.

Pointing out that the Deputy Commissioner, Mandya, had rightly banned mining using explosives around a 20-km radius of the dam, the Bench said that the petitioner cannot seek permission for allowing mining activities, whether with blasting or not, till the decision is taken by the committee as per the provisions of the Dam Safety Act.

The court observed that the dam was built under the guidance of visionaries like Bharat Rathna Sir M. Visvesvaraya and the then Maharaja of Mysore Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and serves as main water source for lakhs of people for drinking and irrigation purposes.

The court noted that the State government had entrusted to a team of experts the task of studying the impact of mining and quarrying activities around KRS a couple of years ago, but the experimental blasting activities could not be undertaken, initially due to COVID-19 and subsequently due to want of suitable condition for experimental blasting.

Though the government said that the study would be completed within six months, the Bench said that it is not imposing any deadline for completion of the study as it is for the experts to decide the conducive period and conduct the experimental blasts and record related data to access safety threat to the dam from blasting.

Notices issued to firms set to develop coffee estates near Bhadra sanctuary

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The RFO of Chikkamagaluru, in his report, said the lands were located within the buffer zone of the wildlife sanctuary

Chikkamagaluru Deputy Commissioner Meena Nagaraj has issued notices to six people representing firms that proposed to develop coffee estates of multiple sizes in plantations close to Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, Kamenahalli Reserve Forest and hill stations in Chikkamagaluru taluk.

The Deputy Commissioner, on January 5, issued notices to six people, who had proposed to convert a total of 242 acres of land at Gonakal and Melina Huluvatthi in Jagara hobli of Chikkamagaluru taluk into multiple-sized plantations.

The Deputy Commissioner has taken note of publicity materials distributed by the companies, besides the company websites.

They have proposed to develop and manage coffee estates with all amenities.

They have invited buyers to own coffee estates with clear titles. The firms are assuring the buyers an "enchanting experience in the heart of green" where they can build their family home and "experience nature in its purest form."

Within buffer zone

The Deputy Commissioner has taken a report from the Forest Department official before serving the notice.

The RFO of Chikkamagaluru, in his report, said the lands were located within the buffer zone of Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary. Any development activity within 10-km of the sanctuary, the buffer zone, needs approval from the Forest Department.

The officer reported that the lands were within 900 to 1,300 metres of aerial distance from Kamenahalli Reserve Foest.

"Kanehalli Reserve Forest has been part of Mysuru Reserve Extension, where wild elephants roam. And the sites chosen for development are within five to six kilometres of Bhadra Reserve Forest," the notice said.

Further, the Deputy Commissioner stated that the lands chosen for development were plantation lands.

The Karnataka Land Reforms Act, 1961, keeps such lands out of the definition of agriculture. And the plantations have been kept out of the ambit of the ceiling on land ownership. Besides that, coffee plantations have been considered an industry.

Diversion of land

Citing these laws, the Deputy Commissioner said that the owners were exploiting these provisions. As per the act, the owners had to obtain prior permission from the Deputy Commissioner before diverting the same for other purposes.

A majority of Chikkamagaluru taluk was a hill station that included Mullayyanagiri, Bababudangiri, among others. The lands identified for development were also on the foothills of the Western Ghats.

"Any move to convert them into piece lands might harm nature and affect the waterbodies in the area," she said.

Minister for Energy K.J. George, who is also Minister in-charge of Chikkamagaluru district, told journalists at Tarikere on Monday, that he instructed the Deputy Commissioner to issue notices to the firms concerned after he learnt about the issue. "I have brought it to the notice of Revenue Minister as well. We will take action as per law," he said.

Sajjan Jindal suggests setting up industrial parks near airports

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Invest Karnataka Forum (IKF) co-chairman and industrialist Sajjan Jindal suggested on Monday to set up industrial parks in regions that are about two hours drive from airports in the State.

He participated (virtually) in the first reconstituted IKF meeting chaired by Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil and opined setting up such industrial parks would facilitate attracting increased investment.

Mr. Jindal said that being an industrialist residing in the State, he knew very well why Karnataka stands out as a preferred investment destination.

Responding to Mr. Sajjan's suggestion, Mr. Patil said that the government also intended to set up industrial parks in an area of about 5,000-10,000 acres. To enable the operationalising of industries, plug-in facilities will be established in such parks, he added.

Confirmed investment

Investments of ₹55,000 crore have been confirmed in the present government and various proposals of about ₹40 crore to ₹1 lakh crore are in various stages of the process, Mr. Patil said.

It was also decided in the meeting to form subgroups within IKF to focus on sectoral investment. The meeting reviewed key developments in the last months and deliberated on framing the roadmap for going forward.

IKF Directors Geetanjali Kirloskar of Kirloskar Systems, and Vijay Krishnan Venkateshan of Kenna Metals were present.

Industries Department Principal Secretary S. Selvakumar, Commissioner Gunjan Krishna and CEO C.T. Muddukumara were present.

Two-day conference on Constitution and national integration from February 24

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the implementation of the Constitution of India, the Karnataka government will hold a conference on "Constitution and National Integrity" on February 24 and 25 at the Palace Grounds in Bengaluru.

Preparatory meet

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday chaired a preparatory meeting of the convention at his home office "Krishna" and decided to hold the convention by roping in the city's two premier institutions - Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), and National Law School of India University (NLSIU).

The State Cabinet has approved ₹18 crore for holding the conference by the Social Welfare Department headed by H.C. Mahadevappa. It is aimed at creating awareness about the significance of the Constitution and its values.

In preparation for the summit, it was decided to take out "Savindana Jagruthi Jatha" in all gram panchayat limits.

Tabloids and short films will be part of the jatha. The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and Education departments would conduct the programme.

Science exhibition

Educational institutions that are part of the Karnataka Residential Education Institutions Society (KREIS) will hold a science exhibition during the two-day programme.

Experts in constitutional matters and law, leading academicians, and historians are expected to take part in seminars and workshops.

The previous Congress government led by Siddaramaiah had held a similar event on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and his legacy on the campus of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru. H. Anjaneya was the Social Welfare Minister then.

Lok Sabha elections: BJP draws up 100-day road map

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party leaders who met in Bengaluru on Monday to prepare for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections drew up a 100-day road map of activities both within the party and in the public domain to ramp up the campaign for the polls.

"We will focus on ideological voters, beneficiaries of Union government schemes and everyone else on the Sarvodaya to Antyodaya model. We will work towards winning 51% of the votes in every booth," said C.T. Ravi, former national general secretary of the party, addressing mediapersons after the meeting.

Taking a potshot at guarantee schemes of the Congress government in the State, he said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi was himself a guarantee for the country and Congress leaders have also begun to experience this. Many are backing out of the race." Mr. Ravi said that the party high command will decide on seat sharing between BJP and JD(S) in the State.

JD(S) meeting

Janata Dal (Secular) also held a meeting on preparations for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections on Monday.

e-mail ID - supenger_rbjyp@yahoo.co.in; Phone No.-06854-231528

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11.	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Chief Construction Engineer, Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore.

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OIPR-34108/11/0039/2324

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client is desirous of purchasing the agricultural lands morefully described in the Schedule written hereunder and collectively referred to as the Schedule properties from their vendor **Sri Srinivas. C,** Son of Late Sri Chikkabyrappa, aged about 50 years, residing at Siddanahosahalli village, Lakshmipura road, Dasanapura hobli, Bengaluru north Taluk, Bengaluru-562123. Any person/s asserting any right/s, interest, title or claim/s in respect of the Schedule Properties, in any manner whatsoever or has any right/s or claim/s in respect of the Schedule Properties or has any objection/s to such sale in favour of our Client, is hereby called upon to notify the undersigned in writing, within **15 days** from the date of issuance of this Public Notice, alongwith documentary proof. If no such written objections/claims are received by the undersigned within the aforesaid period, our client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claim/s and/or objection/s whatsoever with regard to the Schedule Properties and will conclude the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

All that piece and parcel of agricultural land in **Survey No. 52/4** of **Mylanahalli Village, Solur Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District** measuring 1 acre 06 guntas and 0.02 guntas of Kharab, in total measuring **1 acre 08 guntas.**
East by : Land in Survey number 51, West by: Kouchagal Muuneshwara Betta, North by : Land in Survey number 52/5, South by: Land in Survey number 52/3

All that piece and parcel of agricultural land in **Survey No. 52/5** of **Mylanahalli Village, Solur Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District** measuring 01 acre 07 guntas and 0.04 guntas of Kharab, in total measuring **1 acre 11 guntas**.
East by : Land in Survey number 51, West by: Kouchagal Muneshwara Betta, North by: Land in Survey number 52/6, South by: Land Survey number 52/4

All that piece and parcel of agricultural land in **Survey No. 52/6** of **Mylanahalli Village, Solur Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District** measuring 06 acre 39 guntas and 0.06 guntas of Kharab, in total measuring **7 acres 05 guntas.**
East by : Land in Survey number 51, West by: Kouchagal Muneshwara Betta, North by: Land in Survey number 52/7, South by: Land in Survey number 52/5

All that piece and parcel of agricultural land in **Survey No. 52/7** of **Mylanahalli Village, Solur Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District** measuring 06 acre 21 guntas and 5 acres 10 guntas of Kharab, in total measuring **11 acre 31 guntas.**
East by : Land in Survey number 51/3, West by: Land in Survey number 52/8, North by : Border of Nelamangala Taluk, South by : Land in Survey number 52/6

(The Total measurement of land with Kharab is an extent of **21 acres 15 guntas**)

NIKHIL J.S Advocate
No.45/11, Level-2, North Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore 560001
Mobile : 9538062063

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S. No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No	Total
1	CE/SO/Chennai	E-05 / 23-24	1

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

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DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

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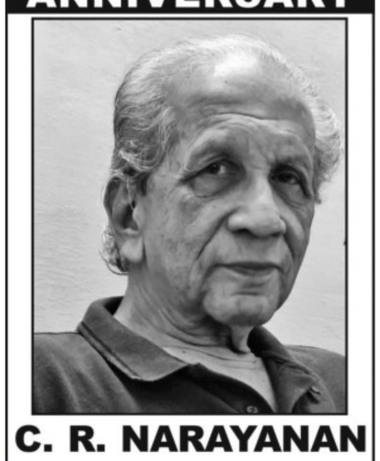


C. R. NARAYANAN
Retd Deputy Director General
Geological Survey of India
DOB : 4th May 1936
DOD : 9th January 2023

He was our guiding light and lived life on his own terms, being the rock we all depended on. He shall be cherished in our hearts forever.

Dhruv Vijairam, Ramya Vijayram, Priya Vijayram and C. Vijayram, C. Vijayanand

A search engine for Tumakuru dialect: IIIT-B team develops AI interface for colloquial Kannada

Called Graama-Kannada Audio Search, the interface allows the user to search for and access hyperlocal information from the Tumakuru region in audio format

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Access to information is relatively easy for the city dweller for whom knowledge is at the tip of the finger. Not so much is the case beyond the urban boundaries.

Rural communities frequently depend on community radio, neighbourhood newspapers, and volunteer organisations for hyper-local information. But the corpus of knowledge produced by these entities often remains localised and is absent on the internet making it difficult for the people to re-access it. Added to this are the language challenges.

Students of International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIIT-B) have devised a solution for this by developing a search interface for colloquial audio content in Kannada language.

Called Graama-Kannada Audio Search, the interface allows the user to search for and access hyperlocal information from the Tumakuru region in audio format.

IIIT-B team doing a demo of Graama Kannada Audio Search in Tumakuru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A search interface

The framework was developed by Sharath Srivatsa (PhD Scholar, IIIT-B), Aparna M. (M.S. by Research Scholar, IIIT-B) and Sai Madhavan G. (iMTECH student, IIIT-B) under the guidance of Srinath Srinivasa (Professor and Dean (R&D), Web Science Lab, IIIT-B) and with the help of T. B. Dinesh (iruWay Rural Research Lab, Janastu).

Namma Halli Radio is a community owned WiFi-mesh radio run by Janastu NGO in the Tumakuru region. Over the years the radio grew an audio corpus rich with information on local customs, cultures, festivals, Covid-19 awareness and so on. But the absence of this data on the internet meant that people could not access the information at a later stage.

The IIIT-B team worked with the community radio and fed the latter's audio corpus into their search model. The audio was transcribed into text using automatic speech recognition (ASR) models. When a user searches for a certain keyword, this transcribed text would be matched with it to deliver results.

The user can search using keywords in Kannada or English text to obtain results in audio format. The audios would be timestamped to denote the exact location of the keyword.

"For example, someone wants to search for a specific term, say Red Cross. They can just type in the word in English or Kannada. And they'll be provided with all the audio from the Namma Halli corpus where the word occurs.

They can even just jump to the time where the word occurs," explains Aparna M., one of the team members who developed the interface system.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) models rely on data fed to them to give outputs. The bias of the data reflects in these models too, as a result of which AI models often fail to reflect the heterogeneity of the human population.

The missing colloquial

Models like Graama Kannada become relevant here.

Graama Kannada search interface could help add colloquial dialects to language models which have been trained either in English or sanitised formal versions of Kannada.

"The problem with LLM (large language models) is that they are mostly built for a very formal type of Kannada like what is spoken on the All India Radio or seen in a newspaper. They don't work very well when a person uses colloquial style language to search something," Ms Aparna explains.

"The main focus of our work is to build models that will be suitable for colloquial content. Since we have access to the community radio's audio corpus, the model that we have built has given us better accuracy for the Tumakuru dialect," she notes.

(From left) Sharath Srivatsa, Srinath Srinivasa, T.B. Dinesh, Aparna M., Jayati Deshmukh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The application, however, currently works on text-based search. But the team notes that they plan to include audio-based search very soon.

"In the future, if someone wants to do a voice search, even if they speak in the Tumakuru dialect, our model will be better in processing it compared to other existing models. The same process can be repeated for other dialects too," says Ms Aparna.

While the interface has been developed predominantly keeping the community members in mind, Ms Aparna notes that it would also work as a window for the general public to get more local information about an area.

Regional cultures

The web application provides a list of most searched words such as Tumakuru, Turuvekere, Gruha Bandhana (quarantine), Dinasi (ration), Lasike (vaccine), Muneshwara Swamy (temple in Tumakuru) and so on.

"This way even if a person is not very familiar with the community, they can understand what the corpus is about by looking at the words that we have given. These keywords can be like a clue to the community to them," explains Ms. Aparna.

Sharath Srivatsa

Sai Madhav

Aparna M.

No mean task

The project was started in the beginning of 2022 as part of the PhD work of Sharath Srivatsa, who is the team lead, in collaboration with Janastu. The biggest challenge before the team was converting the audio accessed from the community-radio to text.

"Our idea was to convert the audio to text and then do all the processing on the text. But getting a model to do that was very hard."

"For low-resource languages (languages with less data available on the internet for training AI systems) like Kannada with dialectical variations, most automatic speech recognition (ASR) models don't work," explains Mr. Srivatsa.

Towards the end of 2022, OpenAI introduced the Whisper model for ASR and speech translation. In 2023 Meta also introduced its own multilingual model. The team started experimenting with them and found better results.

But there were still challenges, a major one being spelling mistakes.

"When the audio was converted to text, it had spelling mistakes. For English the word error rate is just around 10% in ASR models given that it is the standard language and spoken across the world. But when it comes to low resource languages, models are not so optimal and efficient. We got around 60% word error rate and out of that 80% was spelling mistake. That is, when the audio was converted to text, it had spelling mistakes."

The team realised this could become a problem. If the user typed the correct spelling, but the transcript carried a wrong spelling for the same word, the model would fail to match them and deliver results.

So, to address this the team allowed a relaxed criterion or fuzzy matching using which the input text would be compared to texts that are exact or very near.

Simple UI

Once a working model was in place, they started working on the website.

"We made a very simple web application with minimal features. But we made sure that the UI was accessible enough by having Kannada and English words," says Sai Madhav who worked on the project as part of his internship.

"You can search in English or Kannada. If you do it in English, there is this button for transliterating it from English to Kannada. Let's say you search the name of a temple. Even with an approximate spelling, it will show you all the audio clips in the corpus that contain that word and the timestamp. So, you can seek to that particular timestamp, and you will be able to hear in what context it is being spoken about," he adds.

Contrasting worldviews

Apart from adding voice search, the team also plans to add a question-and-answer feature to the model which would allow it to give full-fledged text answer like other LLMs such as ChatGPT. The team is also trying to analyse the contrast in worldviews between urban and rural communities.

"Information regarding modern societies and what they believe in is well documented and available as well-structured content on the internet. But that's not the case with low-resource communities. So, we will collect some more corpus on it and try to find out more about their world views and unique beliefs. We want to mine such things and show in in our UI," says Mr. Srivatsa.

Ms. Aparna explains it further, "We have compared our corpus from the rural region with news corpus in more formal Kannada to find that there is significant difference in the worldviews.

For example, let's take the word development. Rrural community people talk about words like panchayat or Gowda of the village and so on in the context of it. Whereas the mainstream corpus got us results like development, Bangalore and so on."

The team hopes that in a world were AI models push dominant mainstream views, their efforts would help to add more diversity to the mix.

Bengaluru space start-up Bellatrix Aerospace reports success of its payloads launched on ISRO's POEM-3

These engines offer superior fuel efficiency and more precise control, paving the way for longer-lasting and more manoeuvrable satellites

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Two payloads developed by Bengaluru-based space start-up Bellatrix Aerospace which was launched by Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) PSLV-C58 mission on January 1 are now space qualified.

The payloads Arka 200 and Rudra onboard PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3) were among the 10 payloads launched during the mission.

Earlier tests

The start-up's accomplishment was confirmed by ISRO which in a post on X (formerly Twitter) said, "ISRO's POEM platform enables an Indian space start-up to validate its innovation. @BellatrixAero validates Rudra green propulsion system and Arka electric engines, towards satellite missions with eco-friendly tech. Time to rejoice the success of Indian innovation!"

The Bellatrix Aerospace team. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bellatrix Aerospace said the company earlier had tested India's first privately developed Hall Effect Thruster (Arka) in 2021 and subsequently unveiled the nation's first High Performance Green Propulsion system (Rudra) in 2022, representing significant milestones in Indian space technology.

According to the start-up Rudra green propulsion system is a game-changer, replacing hazardous hydrazine with a non-toxic, environmentally friendly high-performing proprietary propellant.

What they offer

"This innovative technology minimizes the environmental impact of toxic propellants, aligning India's space program with the global push for sustainable exploration. Rudra is ideal for satellite missions with high thrust requirements," Bellatrix said. Likewise Arka electric engine utilizes electricity instead of conventional chemical propellants.

These engines offer superior fuel efficiency and more precise control, paving the way for longer-lasting and more manoeuvrable satellites. The start-up says Arka is ideal for satellite missions with high efficiency requirements.

"We are elated to report that both Rudra and Arka are operating in space as per design specifications. Upon firing of Rudra, a noticeable displacement of the POEM-3 platform was recorded, which was in-line with our simulations.

Arka was validated upon successful ignition and functioning of the thruster and heaterless hollow cathode.

Temperature, pressure current and voltage levels from onboard sensors were validated for both Arka and Rudra reassuring payload performance in alignment to ground test results." added Rohan M. Ganapathy, CEO & CTO, Bellatrix Aerospace.

Significant milestone

He added that the test marks a significant milestone for Bellatrix, validating not just the performance of the thrusters, but the entire spectrum of subsystems.

Bellatrix Aerospace

Arka

The 200W Arka Hall Effect Thruster houses many firsts:

- World's 1st Heaterless Hollow Cathode in space. According to the start-up this technology is a major breakthrough for Hall Thrusters, resulting in improved reliability and life in orbit, in addition to mass and power savings.
- Qualified highly compact and efficient power and control electronics for space environment.
- This mission also qualified proprietary valves, propellant flow control system, and few other critical technologies.

Rudra

The 1N Rudra Green Propulsion System also incorporates novel technologies such as:

- World's first 3D printed positive expulsion tank for a CubeSat propulsion system.
- Proprietary high performance green propellant.
- Innovative high temperature catalyst.
- First of its kind 3D printed thruster to undergo space qualification.
- In house developed fast acting valves.
- Proprietary thermal and oxidation barrier coatings.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 9, 1974

Scheme to Finance Land Reforms in Karnataka

Bangalore, Jan. 8. The Mysore State Cooperative Land Development Bank is working out a scheme, in consultation with the State Government, for financing the implementation of land reforms in Karnataka.

Announcing this to newsmen here to-day, Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, MLC and president of the Bank, said it was estimated that a sum of Rs. 22 crores would be required for making down payment to the owners of tenanted lands and surplus lands for the implementation of land reforms. The bank could provide finance for the purpose by floating land reform debentures, he said. He said that Agricultural Refinance Corporation had sanctioned 50 schemes with an outlay of Rs. 75 crores for the State. With the implementation of the scheme by the Bank, about 4.45 lakh acres of levelled land would soon be brought under scientific irrigation.

Coorg Fears on Hosapatna Scheme 'Unfounded'

Bangalore, Jan. 8. The apprehension that the execution of the Hosapatna lift irrigation project (Kambadakada project) to harness the waters of the Kambadakada, a tributary of the Cauvery would harm the interest of the people of Coorg was "unfounded" according to official circles.

They expressed surprise at the suggestion made in some quarters that a vast area of 17,000 to 20,000 acres of valuable plantations in Coorg would be submerged. "Some vested interests" were creating the scare and misleading the people, according to these circles.

CITYBEATS

Platform for poets

JANUARY 14
A Baithak, Hindi and Urdu poetry open mic night will soon be held in Bengaluru. Organised by Theatrenama in assocaition with Speakout Society, the evening is an invitation to writers and audiences to share their works.
The event is open to anyone aged 10 years and above. Tickets on BookMyShow.
At Theatrenama Studios, Kormanagala

Wallflower no more

JANUARY 14
Be a part of this Salsa Open which features classes for all levels. The sessions will focus on Foundations of Salsa (basic steps, footwork, and techniques), partner work (how to dance with a partner), styling and expression (infusing your personality into the dance moves). Conducted by the Motley Dance Company, the classes are open to those aged 16 years and above.
At Lahe Lahe, tickets on BookMyShow

Musical triad

JANUARY 12, 13
The Espen Berg Trio will present an evening of Jazz. This Norwegian band set comprises Espen Berg on piano, Bárður Reinert Poulsen on bass, and Simon Olderskog Albertsen on drums. The trio has gained international recognition for their seamless blend of strong melodies, intricate rhythmics, and technical prowess. Contact Windmills for tickets.
At Windmills, Whitefield.

Get a daily dose of art this year

Beauty can be your daily companion with calendar art on your work or study table

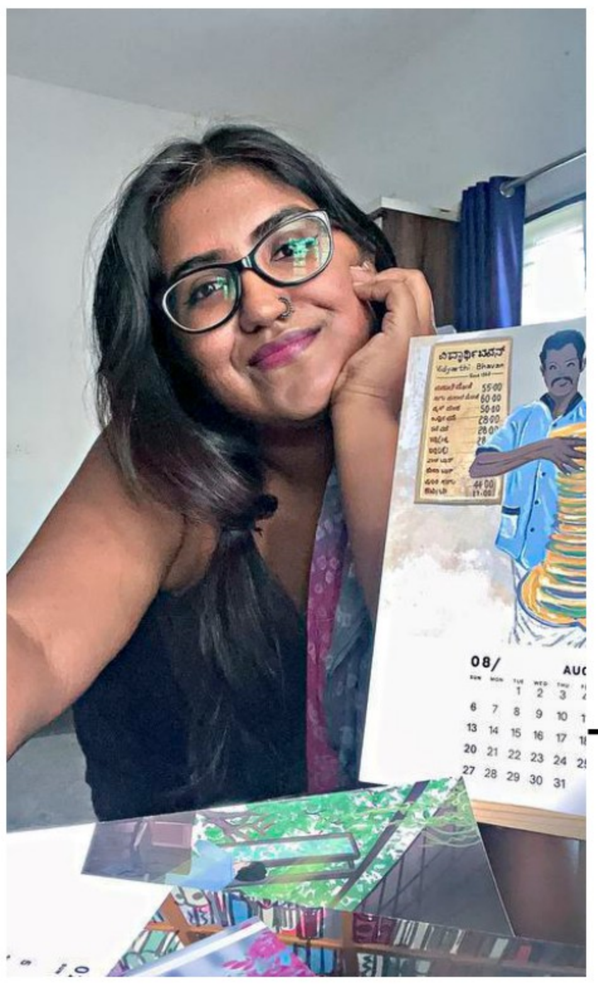
Rashmi Gopal Rao

It is often said that few things are more exciting than a new calendar full of open spaces symbolic of a blank canvas and renewed hope. Come January and it is a time to flip open those shiny new calendars. And if you are a fan of cityscapes and art, Sangeetha Alwar's 2024 calendar is for you – replete with wistful charm and nostalgic vibes, her Bengaluru and Mysore desk calendars are sure to bring a smile on your face.

A self-taught artist with no formal training, Sangeetha admits that she has always been fascinated by art since a child. However, her love for sketching took on a whole new dimension when she bought an iPad in 2108. "It helped me create in a way I'd always imagined. It is my only tool, so I can literally work out of anywhere. I love sketching at cafes and have found that it adds so much to my art when I sit around people. Many of my comics have been influenced by this" says the 29-year-old who is based in Mysuru.

Sangeetha loves sketching and finds it is a great way to convey ideas. She further adds that in her illustration projects, she focuses more on trying to emulate the moods and colours of a place rather than just the shapes.

Sangeetha is a PhD scholar at the University of Mysore and has been teaching English Literature for the last seven years. When asked how she balances the two, she matter-of-factly says that they complement each other. "They are actually interdependent and feed into each other. I use artistic techniques in my creative writing assignments for students and a lot of what I learn from them becomes fodder for my art. It is a rather symbiotic relationship."



Nostalgia on paper Sangeetha Alwar and her calendar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Though she currently lives in Mysuru, Bengaluru was Sangeetha's home for several years before she left the city during the pandemic. "The Bengaluru calendar is an ode to the charming garden city. Some of the pieces such as the K R Market illustration bring back fond memories from eight years ago when I was pursuing my masters in English at Christ University. I'd play hooky in order to go explore the city."

According to Sangeetha, both the Mysuru and Bengaluru 2024 calendars have illustrations that prioritise people, spaces, food and culture rather than tourist attractions. "That is the reason why the Mysuru calendar does not have the Mysore Palace, but the Amrut Gobi Centre and Mylari Dose instead. The Bengaluru series has Mayi Gowda at Blossoms, Vidyarthi Bhavan and the iconic Indian Coffee House."

Sangeetha feels the purpose of the calendar was to add a touch of sustainable art to peoples' desks and homes; Once a month is over, one can cut off the dates and use the square artwork as a wall poster. And in an effort to encourage people to write in the age of instant messaging, she has also included a set of two postcards which people can use to write to their friends.

Sangeetha has collaborated with several organisations including Prism Books, Harper Collins, Asia Safe Abortion Partnership, Tinder and Fila for art projects and as a platform to highlight issues relating to politics, gender, identity and sexuality. "I am currently working on a series called 'Boi comics' which is about love and relationships where I talk about how I met my current partner and the joys of falling in love," says the artist, who also runs a successful poetry community in Mysuru.

Both calendars are available on Sangeetha's instamojo shop accessible via her Instagram handle @ms.alwar.

> I use artistic techniques in my creative writing assignments for students and a lot of what I learn from them becomes fodder for my art.
>
> **SANGEETHA ALWAR**
> Artist and English professor

Falling for beauty

Marianne De Nazareth

"Every gardener, at some point in time, falls prey to the hibiscus craze and I am no exception," says Ayeshia Fernandes who lives in HRBR layout. "My mum is an enthusiastic gardener and has a wide collection of this plant. A few woody cuttings from her has been the beginning of my hibiscus journey. I currently grow nine varieties of this flower, including the tropical hibiscus double orange, Chinese hibiscus, white hibiscus or rose mallow, and hibiscus rosa sinesis."

In Bengaluru, one can source a range of hibiscus plants from most nurseries that dot the city, to say nothing of the flower vendors pushing their carts through residential areas.

The hibiscus is a hardy, versatile plant and can easily be the cynosure of any garden; they do well on balcony gardens too, as they require a lot of direct sunlight.

Cara Lovett who lives in Koramangala says, "The hibiscus is one of my favourite flowering plants as it has a wide colour palette with myriad hues, shapes and sizes. Plus, since it is perennial, one gets to enjoy its beauty throughout the year. Though it may seem a bit dormant in winter, the foliage is quite pretty too."

"Apart from brightening up my verandah garden, the flowers and leaves are a helpful addition to my hair oil regime," she says.

Hibiscus thrive in well-draining soil with plenty of organic matter and neutral to slightly acidic soil. Though they may grow in partial sunlight, the flowers may not be as bountiful.

Snehalata Naidu who lives in Prestige Jindal City says, "Amma had carried a hibiscus cutting from Mangalore to her home in Fraser Town in 1990. It was a white hibiscus which is medicinal so we could pluck it off of the plant and eat it after washing it well. Now my garden, too, has plentiful blooms, and I use the flowers to make hibiscus tea or mix the fresh juice of hibiscus leaves with onion juice and apply it to my hair and scalp."

"Unfortunately, troublesome pests find the hibiscus as irresistible as the enthusiastic gardeners. So, I regularly spray with either neem oil or organic insecticides concoctions found online," says Ayeshia Fernandes.

The hibiscus needs plenty of water, especially when young and new. To root a cutting, trim off a branch that is five to six inches long and strip off the lower leaves. Plant the cutting in a pot with three parts sand and one part compost. Roots should form within a few weeks.

Bright bold and beautiful The hardy hibiscus can add a splashof colour to any landscape. THE HINDU

A mosaic of time

Step back in time and rediscover the exquisite artistry of Indian tiles, once rivals to the grand ceramic traditions of the Islamic world. Acclaimed art consultant Arthur Millner will unveil this forgotten chapter as a part of Museum of Art and Photography's lecture series, MAP talks.

Millner, a name synonymous with forgotten treasures, brings his expertise to life. Honed at Queens' College, Cambridge, and SOAS, University of London, he has navigated the worlds of Sotheby's and his own London gallery. Now, his passion manifests in independent ventures, where he shares his knowledge with collectors, auction rooms, and captivated audiences alike.

Millner, a leading authority on Islamic, Indian, and Himalayan art, draws upon his latest book, *Indian Tiles*, to showcase the diversity of regional styles. From the intricate geometric patterns of Mughal mosques to the vibrant floral motifs adorning Hindu temples, the talk promises a visual treat.

From geometric patterns in Mughal architecture to floral motifs, Indian art covers a wide range

Sadly, much of this rich heritage lies fragmented, ravaged by time and neglect. Yet, through Millner's lens, these remnants come alive, whispering tales of forgotten grandeur and artistic prowess.

He will shed light on the key themes and techniques that defined Indian tile-making, placing it within the broader context of Islamic and Central Asian ceramic traditions.

This event is an invitation to delve into a hidden chapter of Indian art history, regardless of your background. Whether you are an art enthusiast, a history buff, or simply curious about the beauty of forgotten cultures, this talk promises an evening of intellectual and visual delight.

On January 9, 6.30pm at MAP Bengaluru, Mazumdar Shaw Auditorium. Free entry. Visit map-india.org to register and for more information.

INBRIEF

HC grants anticipatory bail to former MP Suresh Gopi

Actor and former MP Suresh Gopi was on Monday granted anticipatory bail by the Kerala High Court in a case registered in connection with his alleged misbehaviour with a woman journalist. The case was registered on a complaint filed by the woman on a charge that Mr. Gopi touched her inappropriately during a press briefing on October 27, 2023 in Kozhikode. The actor had approached the court seeking anticipatory bail following incorporation of Section 354 of the IPC in the chargesheet.

Priests' forum wants Church head to lead archdiocese

A forum of priests of the archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly, representing the vast majority of the clerics, has said it will be an "ideal solution" to the vexatious issue of Mass liturgy if the major archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church also heads the archdiocese. The priests also warned against any move to delink the archeparchy and create a new See for the new major archbishop.

Devotees can trek to Tirumala without any fear: TTD EO

Several safety measures have been initiated on the footpath to Tirumala, and devotees can trek along the pathway without any fear, said TTD Executive Officer A.V. Dharma Reddy on Monday. After chairing a meeting with forest officials, he said the joint committee in its report submitted to the government, recommended the implementation of several long and short-term measures for the benefit of the trekking devotees.

T.N. bags investments of over ₹6 lakh crore at GIM

A total of 26,90,657 jobs are expected to be generated from these investments, says Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the conclusion of Global Investors Meet 2024

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin inaugurating a new project at at the GIM in Chennai on Monday.
B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Tamil Nadu has attracted an impressive investment commitment to the tune of over ₹6.64 lakh crore through 631 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) that would generate nearly 27 lakh jobs across sectors at the conclusion of the first Global Investors Meet (GIM 2024) conducted by the DMK government at the Chennai Trade Centre on Monday.

"We have attracted an unprecedented ₹6,64,180 crore of investments. A total of 26,90,657 jobs are expected to be generated from these investments that include direct employment for 14,54,712 persons and indirect employment for 12,35,945 persons," Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced at the valedictory of the two-day mega event in the presence of United Kingdom's Minister of State Foreign Commonwealth and Development Affairs Tariq Ahmad.

Some of the big-ticket investment proposals were made by Tata Power (₹70,800 crore), Adani Group (₹42,768 crore), Sembcorp (₹36,238 crore), Leap Green Energy Pvt. Ltd. (₹17,400 crore) and Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (₹17,000 crore).

'Shows investors' faith'

Contending these investments bear testimony to the investors' faith in his government and its policies, Mr. Stalin assured to live up to their expectations and handhold and support their ventures throughout. Assuring single window clearances for the projects, the Chief Minister said the government would constitute a Special Committee under Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa, to monitor the progress of these investments. The committee would comprise officials from the Industries department and Guidance TN.

"The committee will do everything to facilitate the transition of these MoUs into completed projects. You will always have access to my office. I guarantee you this in the presence of the Industries Minister and the officers and therefore you can be assured of our commitment," Mr. Stalin said.

"With this GIM, this government that espouses the 'Dravidian model' of governance has laid the foundation for Tamil Nadu's growth for the next 20 years," he said, noting that the proposed investments would be across sectors such as advanced electronics manufacturing, green energy non-leather footwear, automobiles and e-vehicles, defence and aerospace, data centres, global capability centres, Information Technology and Digital Services.

Giving sectoral-wise break-ups, he said ₹3,79,809 crore had been mobilised through the Department of Industries, Investment Promotions and Commerce; ₹1,35,157 crore by the Energy department; ₹62,939 crore through the Housing and Urban Development department and ₹22,130 crore through the Information Technology and Digital Services department.

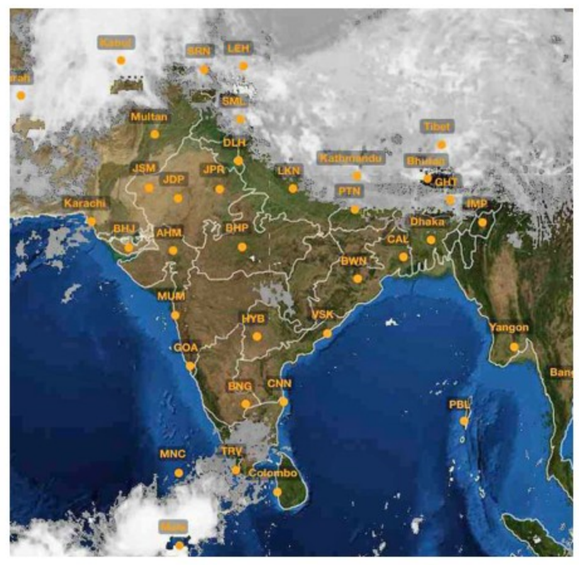
Besides, ₹63,573 crore had been generated by the MSME sector that provides an enabling support system to large industries.

Notably, these investments, which are distributed all over the State, will ensure balanced regional development. Mr. Stalin was confident that the MoUs signed on Monday would help the government attain its ambitious target to make Tamil Nadu a $1 trillion economy by 2030 and play a key role in India's economic growth.

Acknowledging that it is practically not feasible for the government to undertake all the major infrastructure projects by itself, Mr. Stalin released the Tamil Nadu Public-Private Partnership Policy, the first copy of which was received by Mr. Tariq Ahamad, This policy draws upon the best practices of both government and private sectors. The CM inaugurated TANFUND, which aims to bridge the gap between start-ups in Tamil Nadu and investment partners in India and across the world.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over coastal Tamil Nadu. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/ gusty wind likely at isolated places over coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Assam, Mizoram, Tripura, Jharkhand and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	24.9	12.5	Kozhikode	5	33.7	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	25.9	16.4	Kurnool	—	28.8	20.7
Aizawl	—	23.5	10.2	Lucknow	—	20.8	10.1
Allahabad	—	22.7	11.8	Madurai	—	31.6	24.1
Bengaluru	—	23.4	19.9	Mangaluru	40	31.6	23.2
Bhopal	—	24.3	14.8	Mumbai	—	35.1	22.0
Bhubaneswar	—	27.4	16.2	Mysuru	1	29.3	25.2
Chandigarh	—	14.1	8.8	New Delhi	—	17.0	5.3
Chennai	5	26.5	21.5	Patna	—	21.6	13.4
Coimbatore	—	27.1	22.8	Port Blair	—	31.4	26.2
Dehradun	—	22.6	6.4	Puducherry	25	25.6	22.2
Gangtok	—	14.8	7.7	Pune	—	30.8	19.4
Goa	—	34.0	26.8	Raipur	—	29.6	16.6
Guwahati	—	26.8	10.9	Ranchi	—	21.8	12.8
Hubballi	—	30.0	21.0	Shillong	—	16.8	7.4
Hyderabad	—	27.8	18.3	Shimla	—	14.2	4.1
Imphal	—	22.3	5.7	Srinagar	—	11.5	-4.3
Jaipur	—	16.7	8.5	Thiruvananthapuram	2	31.3	24.8
Kochi	—	31.6	25.4	Tiruchi	1	27.1	22.6
Kohima	—	17.8	5.4	Vijayawada	—	27.6	20.6
Kolkata	—	25.0	16.0	Visakhapatnam	—	28.6	22.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	7	14	.24	165	108	
Bengaluru	4	31	.42	54	85	
Chennai	.27	124	116	76	88	
Delhi	.36	188	.62	409	382	
Hyderabad	9	140	.43	98	—	
Kolkata	.23	.75	.27	304	192	
Lucknow	4	.37	.81	216	176	
Mumbai	.29	.74	.63	60	116	
Pune	—	.63	.46	101	78	
Visakhapatnam	.14	.43	.47	232	141	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Nalbari, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 384 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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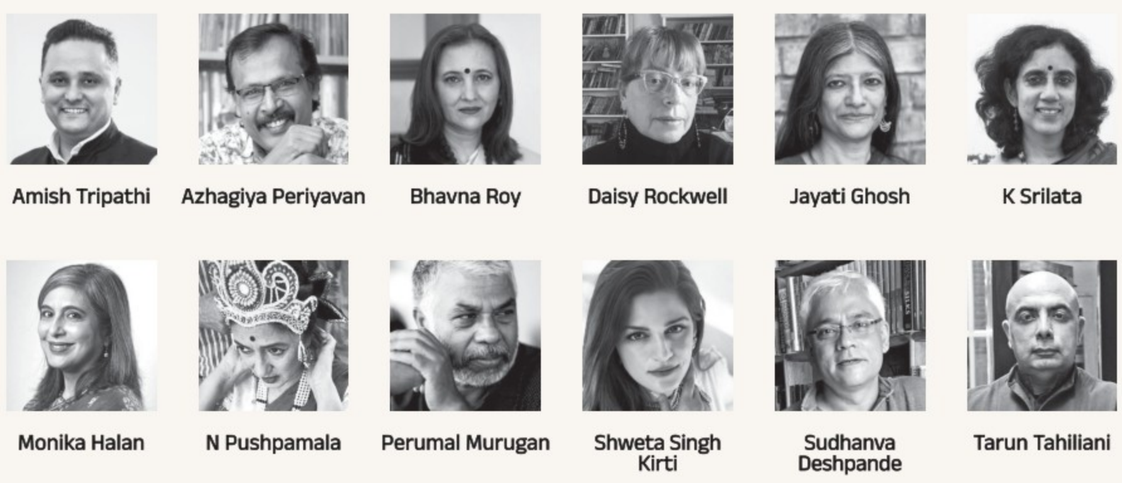
Key speakers


Amish Tripathi | Azhagiya Periyavan | Bhavna Roy | Daisy Rockwell | Jayati Ghosh | K Srilata
Monika Halan | N Pushpamala | Perumal Murugan | Shweta Singh Kirti | Sudhanva Deshpande | Tarun Tahiliani

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Unlawful remission

SC ruling a searing indictment of Gujarat for aiding convicts' release

The Supreme Court of India verdict quashing the orders releasing 11 men convicted for the heinous gang-rape and murder of several members of a family during the Gujarat pogrom in 2002 is an unequivocal indictment of the State government. The men had been sentenced to life by a Sessions Court in Mumbai after the investigation in the 'Bilkis Bano case' was shifted from the Gujarat police to the Central Bureau of Investigation and the trial transferred to Mumbai. A disgraceful story that began with the Bharatiya Janata Party government facilitating their premature release and the freed men being garlanded by their supporters has now ended with the Court directing them to return to prison within two weeks. The verdict is based on the ground that Gujarat did not have any jurisdiction to decide on granting remission to convicts sentenced in Maharashtra. In a telling observation, the Bench, comprising Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan, said, "the State of Gujarat has acted in tandem and was complicit" in one of the convicts' petition for a direction to the State government to grant remission of the remainder of his life term based on a defunct 1992 policy. It has noted that the Gujarat government – which took the correct stand during earlier proceedings that only the government of Maharashtra, where the trial and sentencing took place, was the appropriate government to consider remission – had failed to seek review of a two-Bench judgment's order in May 2022, even though it was wrongly decided based on suppression of material facts. In citing the Court direction as the reason for it to pass orders in favour of the convicts, the State government was guilty of usurpation of power, the Bench said.

The ruling represents a blow for the rule of law and the restoration of faith in the judiciary at a time when there are doubts about the institution's capacity to hold power to account. On merits, it is a timely reiteration of the core principles that animate exercise of the power to grant remission – that it should be fair and reasonable and based on a set of relevant parameters such as whether the crime involved affected society at large, whether the convict retained the potential for committing similar offences or is capable of reform. The release of life convicts, who are generally expected to spend the entirety of their lives in prison, unless remission is granted after a prison term that should not be less than 14 years, ought to be individually considered and not part of any omnibus gesture without regard to the impact of their freedom on the victims, survivors and society. Any rational remission policy should encompass humanitarian considerations and the convicts' scope for reform without violating the rule of law or societal interests. In this case, none of the conditions for remission was met.

Sibling rivalry

Y.S. Sharmila's entry should give some boost to the Congress's chances in A.P.

A long-rumoured political family feud is now in the open with the merger of the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Telangana Party led by Y.S. Sharmila, who is the 50-year-old daughter of the late Chief Minister of unified Andhra Pradesh, Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, and the younger sibling of the incumbent Chief Minister of present-day Andhra Pradesh, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Emerging from her brother's shadow, Ms. Sharmila began her political life following his arrest in May 2012 in a disproportionate assets case. She undertook a 3,000-kilometre padayatra for the fledgling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) that Mr. Jagan Mohan had floated in 2011 after being sidelined by the Congress following their father's death in a helicopter crash in 2009. Ms. Sharmila was widely credited for the YSRCP's victory in 15 of 18 Assembly constituencies in the by-elections held in 2012, but was not given her due within the party. Nor did she contest in any election, leading to speculations of sibling rivalry and a rift within the YSR family. These speculations gained currency when she was not recognised for her work and her popularity during the 2019 Assembly elections that pivoted her brother to the Chief Minister's post for the first time.

It was a foregone conclusion that the YSR Telangana would fail despite Ms. Sharmila's spirited attempt to revive her political fortunes with a Statewide padayatra that mirrored her efforts in 2012. The YSR family had thrown its weight behind the Samakhya Andhra movement, which opposed the formation of Telangana. Several legislators and Members of Parliament from the YSRCP had resigned in protest against the then Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government's decision to carve out Telangana from the former provinces of the Hyderabad princely State. Ms. Sharmila must have known that her decision to re-enter Telangana politics would be a hard sell to the State's residents. For the Congress, she is a major asset and part of a possible tactical move to checkmate her brother. Once considered a Congress citadel, Andhra Pradesh has blanked out the party in Assembly and Parliamentary elections since 2014, with an unforgiving electorate blaming it for letting go of vital industries and resources centred around Hyderabad. Having someone who fought for the State to be unified and with the legacy of the hugely popular mass leader such as Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, the Congress can, at the very least, nurse some hope of reviving its fortunes in the State.

Curb the disillusionment with the traditional rule of law

B.B. Pande

is former Professor of Law, Delhi University

The essential condition for the continued trust in the rule of law is the faith in the inherent "goodness" or desirability of the "norm" that sets the boundaries between the right and wrong. We are all taught about the virtues of a "norm"-abiding life. The 'guru' must be respected because he teaches us the "norms". In the modern secular context we are told to respect the fundamental norm, the Constitution of India. Even the father of the nation, M.K. Gandhi, considered the normative *raison d'etre* sacrosanct. For him, a duly enacted law needed to be respected. But he also said that it was the moral duty of a citizen to oppose an unjust law by all democratic means.

The Dandi March, a mass civil disobedience movement undertaken by Gandhi against the salt tax, set an example for the respect for "norms" when he agreed to be willingly subjected to criminal proceedings for breaking the law. But, today, the rule of law faces a new credibility crisis and the normative raison d'etre subjected to disillusionments of, at least, two kinds. The first is those arising out of the out-datedness or infirmities in the law/laws, and the second, those arising out of an altered perception of law itself that treats law as a "power resource", which can be moulded as per the social requirements.

Decriminalisation of penal laws

As a part of smart governance, the present government has addressed the problem of infirmities and out-datedness in laws by suitable amendments in the laws and their updation to a large extent. After a detailed identification of the problematic laws, in the first phase, the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provision) Act, 2023 was passed to bring about changes in 42 central Acts of varied genre, ranging from the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, the Railways Act, 1989, and the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

The Jan Vishwas Act, piloted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industries primarily to achieve the objective of facilitating business activities in the "Statement of objects and Reasons", spelled the objectives: the outdated rules and regulations are anathema to democratic governance; reducing the compliance burden gives impetus to business and improves the cost of living; fear of imprisonment for minor offences is a major factor hampering the growth of the business ecosystem; trust-based governance necessities a rationalisation of monetary penalties and the gravity of the offence.

> Citizens need to be aware of the grave dangers in the growing fad for a 'shortcut' or an 'abridged' rule of law model

In the second phase, the colonial period Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 were replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill, 2023, respectively. These new Indian penal laws have been envisaged to shed the colonial law legacy and, at the same time, rid the penal laws of infirmities and update them to modern thinking in the field. It is hoped that the rule of law will be able to rebuild the credibility crisis with these laws coming into force.

Crisis of credibility

We all accept and agree about the integrity of the rule of law for a democratic development. Scholars have already identified and underscored the Rule of Law Index as an essential component of the national vision for development in the Viksit Bharat journey. However, the real credibility crisis of the rule of law is located not so much at the normative level but at the level of the rule of law reality that is constituted by the perception and experiences of the consumers of the law – the victim and the victimiser, the enforcers of the law – the policeman, the courts....Above all, the perceptions and the experiences of those who exercise overall command on the rule of law. The 'command group', that in the contemporary context is constituted by the majoritarian will, decide the ways in which the rule of law is to be understood and used as a power resource.

Policing, through encounters, and now policing through 'bulldozers', has gained currency to replace 'investigation', which involved visiting a scene of crime, interrogation of witnesses, arrest, search and seizure. Often, the encounter and bulldozer methods evoke populist support and appreciation from the administration. But because these shortcuts are neither adequately debated nor subjected to pre-determined democratic checks and balances, there exist huge possibilities of their gross abuse at the ground level. We need to learn from two examples of abuse which led to suffering. In the first, the shooting of a young car mechanic of Algerian descent led to large-scale violence in several cities in France resulting in police action against thousands of youth mostly of Arab and black origin. The French police asserted that they were "at war with savage hoards of vermins", while the protesters sought "justice" based on respect for principles of legality, necessity, proportionality non-discrimination, precaution and accountability.

The second example was the custodial torture and civilian deaths in the course of security force action and inquiry after the ambush of Army vehicles in Poonch district. A report in a leading daily said: "But the allegations of custodial violence speak of a brutal, unacceptable high-handedness by the security forces. This is not 'Naya Kashmir' that the Centre talks about, these are the worst ghosts of the past. The charges, the circumstances, must be thoroughly investigated and the guilty brought to book."

Looking ahead

The traditional rule of law notion, that is premised on uniformity, predictability and certainty, is crucially hinged upon normative fidelity that requires going through a cycle of processes before arrival at a 'guilty' verdict leading to punishment. As against this, the modern day 'short-cut' or 'abridged' rule of law model looks for quick and reactive ways for doing repressive justice that focuses more on identifying the targeted accused either on the basis of majoritarian dictate or cryptic information reaching the police or the civic administration.

Since the abridged rule of law does not require going through a fixed cycle of process, the first action itself, i.e., the encounter killing or destruction of property by 'bulldozer' may constitute the final sanction or punishment. Though the abridged rule of law delivers quick and reactive justice, it is crude and makes 'justice' a matter of chance, because it would be difficult to decide with certainty who shall be the next target – as an encounter killing or as the target of bulldozer action. Fortunately for us, the government of the day continues to repose faith in the traditional rule of law. It is hoped that before it is too late, we should be alert to the dangers inherent in the growing fad for a 'shortcut' or an 'abridged' rule of law model.

An ambitious push for values, ethics in higher education

Furqan Qamar

a professor of management at Jamia Millia Islamia, is a former adviser for education in the Planning Commission and Secretary-General of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU)

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been issuing regulations, guidelines and directives at break neck speed that some of the important ones miss drawing the attention of the higher education community. One such guideline is Mulya Pravah 2.0, a modified version of Mulya Pravah, which was notified in 2019. It seeks to inculcate human values and professional ethics in higher education institutions. The stated intention is to build value-based institutions by orienting individuals and institutions towards developing a deep respect for fundamental duties and constitutional values and bonding with the country.

The trigger is the findings of a survey of human resource managers which highlight unethical practices in various organisations. The most prominent of these are "favouritism in hiring, training, pay and promotion; sexual harassment; gender discrimination in promotion; inconsistent view on discipline; lack of confidentiality; gender differentiation in compensation; non-performance factors overlooked in appraisals; arrangements with vendors for personal gain; and gender discrimination during recruitment and hiring".

These vices may not be specific or exclusive to higher education institutions but could be rampant among them. None can assert that they are free of malpractices. The UGC must get credit for notifying the guideline, though it may not be sufficient to curb corruption and violations of ethics and integrity.

Unless backed by sincere efforts to ensure that the provisions of Mulya Pravah are effected in letter and spirit, the move may be no more than a mere formality. The higher education regulator(s) must demonstrate zero tolerance and act swiftly to quell even the smallest trace of corruption in the admission, examination, hiring processes or, for that matter, in any aspect of university administration.

Emphasis on transparency

Mulya Pravah 2.0 underscores the need for utmost transparency in administration and highlights that decision-making in higher education institutions must be solely guided by institutional and public interest, and not be vitiated by biases.

It seeks to abolish the discriminatory privileges of officials and urges the administration to punish the corrupt. It lays stress on the criticality of 'encouraging persons at all levels to think and give their advice freely'.

> Unless there are sincere efforts to ensure that the provisions of Mulya Pravah 2.0 take effect, the UGC's move may be a mere formality

The guideline expects higher education institutions to 'ensure integrity, trusteeship, harmony, accountability, inclusiveness, commitment, respectfulness, belongingness, sustainability, constitutional values and global citizenship'. This is a laudable and timely intervention, as these values are receding. The authorities in and officers of universities must ensure that the provisions of their acts, statutes, ordinances and regulations are strictly adhered to in letter and spirit.

The guideline requires higher education administration to conduct matters ensuring accountability, transparency, fairness, honesty, and the highest degree of ethics. It reminds them to act in the best interest of their institution, create a conducive culture and work environment for teaching, learning, and research and develop the potential of their institution. It further asserts that officers and staff must 'refrain from misappropriating financial and other resources, and refuse to accept gift, favour, service, or other items from any person, group, private business, or public agency which may affect the impartial performance of duties'.

Issue of confidentiality

The emphasis on the need for and the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of information is bemusing as it runs counter to the right of information as an instrument to ensure accountability. Higher education institutions must, in fact, be mandated to voluntarily disclose all critical information and subject themselves to public scrutiny.

The guideline would do well to urge them to promptly upload agendas, proceedings and minutes of the meetings of their decision-making bodies, sub-committees and standing committees. They must put up their annual reports and audited accounts in the public domain. This will deter malpractices and go a long way in restoring public confidence in the workings of the institutions.

Asserting that teaching is a noble profession, and that teachers play a crucial role in 'shaping the character, personality, and career of the students', it requires them to 'act' as role models and set examples of 'good conduct, and a good standard of dress, speech and behaviour, worth emulating by students'. It asks them to abide by the provisions of the acts, statutes, ordinances, rules, policies, and procedures of their universities but maintain silence on the issue of teachers' associations.

Unions and support

Mulya Pravah 2.0 expects staff and student unions to 'support the administration in development activities and raise issues in a dignified manner', although this sounds like suggesting that they act and be the team B of the administration and desist from raising issues concerning their members.

Associations and unions of stakeholders are pressure groups to exert collective influence to protect the rights and interests of their members. While no one could ever suggest that they always be at loggerheads with the administration, it may be too much to expect them to take sides with the administration.

Higher education institutions are communities of scholars where no one should be more equal than the other. Each stakeholder must be allowed to proactively participate in protecting, preserving and promoting the culture and standards of their institutions. The idea of collegiality must require the administration to engage with and consult stakeholders in decision-making.

Mulya Pravah 2.0 insists that staff and students unions must 'raise issues in a dignified manner'. As the guideline does not define or delineate what 'dignified manner' entails, the provision could be misused to threaten, shun, silence or at least undermine the collective voices of the stakeholders.

The threat is real and imminent. Associations and unions of teachers, staff and students have often been banned and suspended on the slightest pretext. Their office-bearers and elected representatives have generally been accused of violating the code of conduct and acting against the interests of their institutions. Many are fighting battles for their survival in courts of law.

It is obvious that provisions such as these may cause more harm than good. Discordant voices may, at times, cause inconvenience to the powers that be. In the ultimate analysis, they only strengthen institutions by improving the quality and sustainability of the decisions.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Politics and consecration

Nobody would object to the consecration of the Ram Mandir if it had only a religious angle to it. But that cannot be said of the present inauguration. It has a lot of political overtones with the emphasis on Hindutva, which is not conducive to the secular credentials of the Constitution. A divisive India is not good either for Hindus or Muslims or others. Therefore, the rejoicing has to be kept low.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Change in Bethlehem

In 1967, Christians made up 80% of Bethlehem's population. During the period from the six-day war to Arafat's Intifada, there were no barriers to traffic between Israel, Gaza and Judea and Samaria (the West Bank). Muslims, Christians and Jews travelled back and forth to work, shop and play. The 1993-95 Oslo Accords marked the beginning of the end of Christian Bethlehem. No sooner had Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat been welcomed into the West Bank than his PLO followers began to change things; Christians were forced out. In 2000, following the Camp David talks, a second Intifada ended the peaceful commerce the region had enjoyed and Bethlehem became more isolated. Even the Church of the Nativity was later over-run. Israel built a security barrier and it has been relatively effective. Today, there is no Palestine. At this time of year, we all hope for peace (Opinion page, "Christmas under the rubble in Bethlehem", January 8).

Jacques Fortier,
Montreal, Canada

Exam hall centre issue

On January 7, ISRO conducted the SC (Scientist) exam at Saveetha Engineering College in Sriperumbudur, Chennai. There were approximately 8,000 candidates from even other States. There was no information centre. Some were directed from one block to another, about 1.5 km away, where a notice board had the roll numbers. Examinees need a more comfortable experience.

T.K. Balaji,
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Understanding the EU's carbon border tax

A concerning development for India is the European Union (EU)'s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). The policy, which intends to tax carbon-intensive products coming into the EU from 2026, is divided into two phases, with the first phase (transitional phase) kicking in from October 1, 2023. There has been constant exchange between the EU and India on the implications of the CBAM. The Commerce and Industry Minister said recently that the proposed carbon tax on imports is an "ill-conceived" move that would become the "death knell" for India's manufacturing sector.

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What is CBAM?

The EU contended, while providing context for the CBAM, that it intends to achieve the target of a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030, compared to 1990 levels, under the European Green Deal. The CBAM is part of the package planned to achieve this. Second, there is a threat to EU products being replaced by carbon-intensive imports from other countries such as India or China. The EU argues that the higher standard of environmental compliance in its domestic industries will reduce their competitiveness. Thus, it intends to impose an import duty on carbon-intensive industries from non-EU countries to meet both these objectives.

The CBAM is intended to work like the EU's Emission Trading System (ETS), which sets a cap on the amount of GHG emissions permitted. Under the EU-ETS, companies covered by the scheme have to 'buy' allowances corresponding to their GHG emissions. Financial incentives are provided to them to cut emissions. But energy-intensive industries receive free allowances to ensure their competitiveness. This is also a way of preventing carbon leakage, wherein carbon-intensive production by EU-based producers could move to non-EU countries with lax environmental regulations. The CBAM has been pitched to replace this allocation of EU-ETS allowances.

The CBAM's transitional phase will last until December 2025. In this stage, all EU manufacturers and importers of energy-intensive industries will need to report the GHG emissions embedded in their imports without any financial obligations. From January 1, 2026, the CBAM will enter the definitive phase wherein, upon declaration of the emissions embedded in imports, the importers will be required to surrender annually the corresponding number of CBAM certificates.

The CBAM will be applied to the actual declared carbon content embedded in the goods imported to the EU. The formulae devised to calculate this content will be based on the EU-ETS mechanism, barring for the first year. In the first reporting year, to allow some flexibility, use of default values for the embedded emission or using the monitoring, reporting, or verification rules of the country of production is permitted. However, there is a fundamental difference between how the actual carbon content embedded is calculated and valued in other jurisdictions.

India has just started working on its own carbon trading mechanism. In December 2022, it amended the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, to introduce the Carbon Credit Trading System (CCTS). This is proposed to combat climate change by incentivising actions for emission reductions leading to increased investments in clean energy by the private sector. The Ministry of Power is still working on the specifics to operationalise the CCTS, including carbon valuation.

In India, the obligatory CCTS model is also coupled with the voluntary market-based mechanism called the Green Credit Programme Rules, notified by the Ministry of Environment in 2023. The scheme is aimed to encourage more environmentally proactive actions going beyond the carbon reduction mandate.

India's options

India is reportedly among the top eight countries that will be adversely affected by the CBAM. As per the Global Trade Research Initiative report, in 2022, 27% of India's exports of iron, steel, and aluminum products worth $8.2 billion went to the EU. It is estimated that a few of its core sectors such as steel will be greatly affected by the CBAM.

India seems to have limited options to navigate the CBAM framework. The first would be to challenge the practice as being violative of the common but differentiated responsibilities principle agreed upon under the Paris Agreement. Second, the EU could collect the tax and return the funds to such countries to invest in their green technologies. This appears pragmatic, especially as the CBAM will enter the definitive phase in 2026. Thus the ongoing negotiations with the EU must be closely observed for this purpose. India has already challenged the CBAM before the World Trade Organization under the special and differential treatment provisions.

The EU has failed to take cognisance of the other factors that might dictate the shift of production by EU industries outside the EU. These include the availability of cheap labour and other modes of production, and the opportunity to expand in other geographies.

Recently, the U.K. declared the enforcement of its own CBAM by 2027. This is expected to cause a significant upheaval for India's exports in the forthcoming years. As a consequence, there arises a pressing need for India to formulate its own carbon taxation measures that align with the principles of the Paris Agreement while simultaneously safeguarding its industries' interests. However, given the limited time available, it is imperative for India to act swiftly in this regard.

There is a pressing need for India to formulate its own carbon taxation measures that align with the principles of the Paris Agreement while simultaneously safeguarding its industries' interests

The fight against 'caste Christians'

The deep penetration of caste discrimination in Christianity is a point of concern

STATE OF PLAY

D. Suresh Kumar

While caste discrimination against Dalit Hindus continues to cause outrage in Tamil Nadu, the deep penetration of caste in Christianity has also become a point of concern.

In recent years, the State has been witnessing a battle within Christianity for recognising Dalits as equals in the diocese. The issue gained political traction with the recent release of writer Nivedita Louis's book *Christhuvathil Jathi* (Caste in Christianity) by Lok Sabha MP Thol Thirumavalavan, who heads the Dalit party, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi. Mr. Thirumavalavan underlined the "strange phenomenon" in India where Christianity had established itself without any fundamental change to society. "The roots of caste have nourished Christianity (in India)" and it does not possess the "roots of Christian values," he said.

Literary works have been a tool to expose the sharp caste-based divisions within Christianity. The acclaimed autobiographical work, *Karukku*, explored Dalit Christian author Bama's disillusionment with caste oppression within the church and its institutions. Likewise, *Yaathirai* (Pilgrimage), a novel by Fr Mark Stephen, vividly portrayed the denial of rights to Dalit Christians, including in the administration of the church and in the organisation of festivals. The novel was an outcome of his observations as the parish priest in Ongur, between 1984 and 1990, of the humiliations meted out to Dalit Christians. His first novel, *Suvargal* (Walls), highlighted the need to demolish the walls that divide the tombs of Dalit and upper caste Christians.

Beyond literary works, the fight against caste discrimination in Christianity has been going on for some decades. In the 1990s, the Arockiya Matha Church (established in 1922) in Thachur village in Kancheepuram, where the first Christians had arrived in 1836, was shut down for over 10 years following a legal battle between the upper caste Reddiar Christians and the Dalit Christians. It was reopened in late 2006 following a tripartite agreement involving the Reddiars and two groups of Dalits. Yet, five years later, Thachur witnessed a tense face-off and heavy police deployment over the burial of two Dalits in the church cemetery.

The Dalit Christian Liberation Movement of Tamil Nadu-Pondicherry had even sought an audience with Pope John Paul II ahead of his visit to India in November 1999, to highlight the "oppression and persecution of the Dalits within the Church".

Despite constituting a majority in the Catholic order, Dalits are rarely appointed priests or Bishops. The Tamil Nadu Untouchability Eradication Front had contended that the practice of caste can be found in the formation of parishes, the denial to Dalit Christians to participate in the administration of the parish, and the construction of separate chapels in the same village for Dalits and other caste Christians. In fact, the Policy of Dalit Empowerment in the Catholic Church in India, adopted at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India in 2016, acknowledged that the participation of Dalit Christians at the leadership level in the diocesan administration and in religious orders is minimum, while at the higher levels, it is nearly nil.

Nearly nine years ago, M. Prakash, who was then the Chairman of the Tamil Nadu State Minorities Commission, publicly admitted that there was discrimination against Dalit Christians in churches. However, neither the Commission nor the government could interfere in it "as it was like a fight among members of a family" and must be sorted from within, he said.

Courts too have been approached seeking adequate representation for Dalits in the Roman Catholic Church. Contending that out of the 18 Archdiocese in Tamil Nadu, only one Dalit Bishop was consecrated, a Srivilliputtur resident, M. Anbarasan, had moved the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, seeking direction to the governments to end this discrimination. In August 2021, the court had ordered notice to the Centre and State and also to the Apostolic Nuncio to India and the Tamil Nadu Bishops Council. The matter remains sub judice.

Politically, Mr. Thirumavalavan has taken the line that this is not a weakness of Christianity but "only proves the power of the caste system, which has swallowed Christianity". Nonetheless, religiously speaking, the right thing for the church would be to walk the talk to ensure "caste Christian" does not become an acceptable term.

Exploring India's diverse cultural heritage through GI tags

Over 500 products across all the States have been given GI tags so far

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Last Thursday, 17 products from across six States/Union Territories got the Geographical Indications (GI) tag. The products ranged from handicrafts such as the Dongaria Kondh shawl from Odisha, to agricultural products such as the Sundarban Honey from West Bengal. A GI tag is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

What is a GI tag?

In India, if one thinks of Tirupati or Nagpur, often laddus and oranges come to mind, respectively. Both these products have GI tags. While arguing for a GI tag, Tirumala Tirupati Devsthanam said in their application that the highest quality of raw material is procured for the production of the laddu *prasad* and a variety of skills are required for each stage of its making. The GI tag for the Nagour orange reportedly helped farmers brand their products under the tag.

Any trader's body, association, or organisation can apply for a GI tag. The applicants need to prove the uniqueness of the item with historical records and a complete breakdown of how the product is made. GI tags are also not meant just for popular products. There are hundreds of GI tags across States. Every GI tag recognises a particular region and product and brings it to the public eye.

It is important to note that the raw materials for such products do not have to come from that region (unless it is an agricultural tag). For instance, the leaf that gives the Banarasi paan its identity is not grown in Varanasi; it comes from Bihar, West Bengal, or Odisha. The mulberry silk used in Kancheepuram sarees comes from Karnataka and the gold zari from Surat.

There are over 500 GI tags as of January 7, 2023. There are 34 classes of products that can get GI tags, – from chemicals and paint to foodstuff, handicrafts, musical instruments, and even firearms and locomotives. The products in the GI registry fall under five major categories **(Chart 1)**. Handicrafts dominate the list, with over half the GI tags being given to products crafted by skilled artisans.

GI tags across States

Every State in India has at least one GI tag. While GI tags are a proxy for unique cultural items, they are by no means exhaustive. If a State has more GI tags compared to another, it doesn't necessarily mean that it is more culturally rich; it just means that more items have been registered, with more to probably follow. Tamil Nadu (61) has the highest number of GI tags compared to other States. Uttar Pradesh has the second highest number of GI tags. (56). These include leather footwear from Agra, saddles from Kanpur, and the traditional embroidery art form of Chikankari from Lucknow. Karnataka with 48 GI tags is ranked third, Kerala with 39 is ranked fourth, and Maharashtra with 35 is fifth. **Chart 2** shows the State-wise number of GI tags.

Chart 3 shows the State-wise number of GI tags across the five major categories. The Coimbatore wet grinder (to make batter for idlis) was given a GI tag under the "manufactured" category.

Ancient cultural centres such as Banaras (Varanasi) are steeped in culture and tradition. Banaras offers 11 unique crafts and agricultural items (the highest from a single place), including the famous Banarasi paan. The heritage city of Mysuru, ruled for centuries by the Wodeyars, has 10 unique items, including the special variety of jasmine (Mysore mallige) and the fragrant sandalwood soap. Paintings from Thanjavur in Tamil nadu and the Thanjavur's iconic bobblehead dolls find a place among the five GI tags the city has to offer.

Dissecting geotags

The charts are based on data from the Geographical Indications Registry

Getting recognised: A Lanjia Saora tribal youth working on a traditional Saora painting in Bhubaneswar. This style of painting was given a geographical indication tag recently. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Chart 1 : The products in the GI registry fall under five major categories as shown below

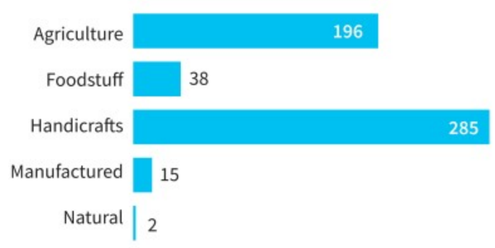


Chart 2 : The chart shows the State-wise number of GI tags

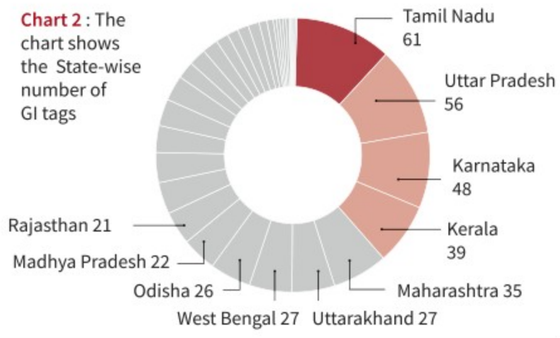
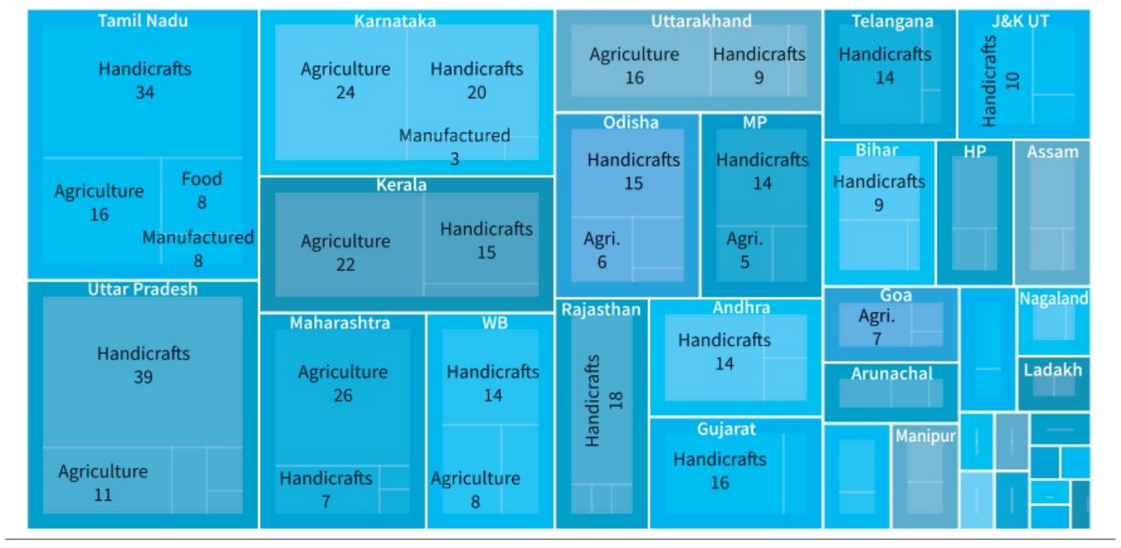


Chart 3 : The State-wise number of GI tags across the five major categories



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 9, 1974

LIC orders lock-out for sections of staff in Madras and Bangalore

Madras, Jan. 8: The Life Insurance Corporation has declared a lock-out, effective from the morning of January 9, in respect of Class III and Class IV employees in its Divisional Offices at Madras and Bangalore. The lock-out effects 1,123 employees in the Madras Division and 1,400 in Bangalore. The establishments of the Madras Divisional Office function at the LIC building on Mount Road, the United India building and the Bombay Mutual building in George Town. The lock-out does not apply to either the branch offices in the two Divisions or the Zonal ofice at Madras. There are eleven divisions in the South. In Bangalore, the lock-out applies in Class III and Class IV staff in all the departments and sections of the Divisional Offices situated at "Jeevan Prakash" building and the "United India Life" building. Partial lock-out has also been declared in the Patna and Delhi divisional offices effective from to-morrow. Partial lock-out was declared in the Dharwar Divisional Office affecting only the machine department. About 5,000 employees will be affected by the lock-out. LIC officials hoped that the "limited" lock-out would serve as sufficient warning to the employees and wiser counsel would prevail of them to resume normal duties forthwith in the interest of the policyholders and other sections of the public.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 9, 1924

Railway derailment in Cochin

Trichar, Jan. 7: Another derailment of a most threatening nature took place last Saturday when two of the heavy Third-class carriages in the Ernakulam-Shoranur evening Passenger Train got derailed while she was approaching Irinjalakuda Rly. Station, three stations to the south. From reports to hand, some third-class passengers who had booked luggages in the shape of heavy gunny bag loads are alleged to have jettisoned them to their agents who were clandestinely waiting by the side of the line for the purpose of taking them perhaps as usual. The bags unfortunately could not go farther away from the line, with the result that the wheels of the following carriages had to mount over them and thus got derailed.

From Page One

Bilkis case: SC sets aside release of 11 life convicts

"Can rule of law surrender to liberty earned as a consequence of its breach? Can breach of rule of law be ignored in order to protect a person's liberty that he is not entitled to? Should the scales of justice tilt against rule of law? Only when the rule of law prevails will liberty and all other fundamental rights prevail under our Constitution... Rule of law does not mean the protection of a fortunate few," Justice Nagarathna responded.

Ordering *status quo ante*, Justice Nagarathna reasoned that for the convicts to apply for remission again, they had to be back in prison first.

The court said Gujarat did not have the jurisdiction to grant remission to the convicts. Justice Nagarathna said Gujarat was not the "appropriate government" under Section 432(7)(b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which covered the subject of power to suspend and remit sentence.

The case was transferred by the Supreme Court in August 2004 from Gujarat to Maharashtra after noting that Ms. Bano had been "coerced to live the life of a nomad and an orphan... the gruesome and horrific acts of violence have left an indelible imprint on her mind which will continue to torment and cripple her". The CBI Special Judge in Greater Mumbai had convicted the 11 men and sentenced them to life imprisonment in January 2008. Hence, the court clarified it was the State of Maharashtra, where the 11 men were tried and sentenced, and not Gujarat, where the crime had occurred and the convicts were imprisoned, which was the "appropriate government" to grant remission under Section 432(7)(b). This tenet of law extended even to transferred cases.

Justice Nagarathna held that a Supreme Court order in May 2022 allowing Gujarat to consider the remission applications of the 11 men under the State's remission policy of 1992 was procured by fraud, suppression and misrepresentation of material facts. For one, the judge said, the 1992 policy had already been cancelled. Moreover, Gujarat's remission policy was not applicable to Maharashtra. Besides, one of the 11 men, Radheyshyam Bhagwandas Shah, who had approached the top court leading to the May 2022 order, did not disclose the fact that the Gujarat High Court had twice held that Maharashtra was the competent authority.

India, Maldives discuss spat

These Deputy Ministers had responded in response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Lakshadweep during which he had highlighted the beautiful beaches of the islands. In the backdrop of their comments, President Muizzu suspended the three Ministers – Maryam Shiuna, Malsha Shareef, and Mahzoom Majid. The Israeli embassy here waded into the social media-driven diplomatic spat and said on Monday, "We were in Lakshadweep last year upon the federal government's request to initiate the desalination programme. Israel is ready to commence working on this project tomorrow. For those who are yet to witness the pristine and majestic underwater beauty of Lakshadweep islands, here are a few pictures showing this island's enchanting allure."

Maldivian Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer, who is currently in China, took to social media platform X and said: "The recent remarks against foreign leaders and our close neighbours are unacceptable and do not reflect the official position of the Government of Maldives. We remain committed to fostering a positive and constructive dialogue with all our partners, especially our neighbours, based on mutual respect and understanding."

Foreign policy experts, too, are concerned by the dramatic escalation in tensions between the neighbours. Meanwhile, some within the Maldives fear that the recent developments may impact the island nation's tourism industry in the wake of online campaigns in India calling for a boycott of the Maldives. The emerald seas and plush resorts in the atolls of the Indian Ocean archipelago have been drawing Indian tourists in large numbers.

DGCA revises duty norms for pilots

However, one of the strongest demands from pilots to abolish two consecutive night landings remains unheeded. Pilots say that flying a second night without a reset of circadian rhythm is extremely stressful, and claim that it has also led to an increase in the number of pilots being declared temporarily unfit.

The new norms allow pilots a weekly rest period of "continuous 48 hours", up from the earlier 36 hours, including two local nights (a period of eight hours falling between 10 p.m and 8 a.m local time.

The rules require airlines to publish crew roster "sufficiently in advance" in order to help pilots plan their week ahead.

The DGCA also wants airlines to submit an analysis of fatigue reports given by their pilots on a quarterly basis along with an action taken report.

The aviation watchdog said in its press statement that it plans to soon adopt a new regime of fatigue management, known as the Fatigue Risk Management System, which is a data-driven approach to enhance monitoring and reporting of flight crew fatigue. Pilots have broadly welcomed the revised norms as a step in the right direction.

PM suggests roll-out of three new criminal laws in U.T.s by year-end

Government is now looking at the phased implementation of the legislation notified in December; all modules of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems are not being used to their full potential by States, says a police official

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The annual Director-General of Police Conference, attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Jaipur last week, took on board concern over various facets of the implementation of the three new criminal laws, particularly storage and security of data.

Starting with the Union Territories, the government is now looking at the phased implementation of the three laws notified in December, said officials who attended the conference.

During the discussions, the Prime Minister is learnt to have suggested that the three laws be rolled out in a targeted manner in all the Union Territories by 2024-end, instead of just in Chandigarh as was being planned earlier. It was deliberated that every State would have the liberty to implement the laws in a phased manner.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which replaces the Indian Penal Code, 1860; the Bharatiya Sakshya (BS), which replaces the Indian Evidence Act, 1872; and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), in place of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, were notified in the Gazette of India on December 25. The BNSS mandates compulsory audiovisual recording of search and seizure in a criminal case.

Bringing together: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Home Minister Amit Shah and others during the All-India Conference of Directors-General and Inspectors-General of Police in Jaipur on Sunday. PTI

'Chances of data theft'

Police officials at the meeting said the data generated after the videotaping of search and seizure would be humongous. The chain of command and location where the data will be stored must be ascertained as there are also chances of data theft and pilferage, they added.

Delhi Commissioner of Police Sanjay Arora intervened, stating that recently when the police decided to videotape a crime scene, the 2GB memory card available with the police official was exhausted in 20 minutes.

Under the BNSS, the recording should be produced immediately before the magistrate. However, officers pointed out that the evidential value of the data may be questioned if it is uploaded a few hours after the crime has been committed.

An official enquired about the funding pattern for single-use memory cards, since the States are often short on resources in policing matters. The security of data stored in cloud systems was also discussed, and it was argued whether the pilferage of the system could compromise the case in the court of law.

A police official pointed out that all modules of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) such as online filing of chargesheets, case diaries, and investigation reports are not being used to their full potential by the States. Though the government has claimed that over 99% of first information reports (FIR) were being filed through CCTNS, the official said that it was only one of the pillars of the project.

A session dedicated to cybersecurity delved into the need to protect critical infrastructure, particularly in the health and power sector from organised cyberattacks.

Mr. Modi asked officials to consider the creation of a joint task force for the northeast States.

Porous border

"In areas affected by left-wing extremism, there are joint teams of Central and State police officials from neighbouring districts. The northeast States, which also share a porous border with Myanmar, lack the mechanism. Joint Task Force will help in curtailing the insurgency in these areas as States often have their unique issues and work in silos and inter-State consultation becomes difficult," said a senior government official.

The regulatory loopholes in the implementation of the Free Movement Regime (FMR) with Myanmar were discussed. It was pointed out that Assam Rifles was present in a dual role – counter insurgency and border guarding, leading to gaps in effective security of the border. Fencing was suggested as an important measure.

A cybersecurity session delved into the need to protect critical infrastructure from organised cyberattacks

A presentation was made on tribal uprisings and the Prime Minister suggested that the issues be handled expeditiously so that they do not spiral out of control, giving minimal chances to vested interests to exploit the situation.

Mr. Modi, while speaking about illegal migration, said that the ecosystem which supports such movement should be dismantled.

"He was of the view that the investigating agencies and police should ponder how 6,000 Rohingya reached Jammu from Rakhine State in Myanmar, which is thousands of kilometres away. He asked officials to look whether there is an ecosystem that supports this," the official said.

'Look into delisting of Kukis, Zomis from ST list'

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Manipur government has been asked by the Centre to examine a representation seeking deletion of the "Nomadic Chin-Kuki" from the list of Scheduled Tribes in Manipur. The Union Tribal Affairs Ministry said that a representation seeking delisting was made by Maheshwar Thounaojam, secretary of the Republican Party of India (Athawale), who is based in Imphal.

Throughout 2023, several Meitei groups in Manipur made representations seeking inclusion of their community on the ST list. There was one appeal from an association of Meitei Pangals (Meitei Muslims). This is the first time a case is being made that Meiteis get ST status by excluding Kuki and Zomi. The reasoning is that they are not indigenous to the land.

In a letter dated December 26, 2023, the Union government said the process of inclusion or exclusion from ST list requires the proposal to originate from the State government and hence it was sending the representation to the State government for its recommendation.

Mr. Thounaojam has tried to argue that indigeneity should be the principal criterion for defining STs in the country, further requesting the government to accordingly determine "who should be correctly in the ST list of Manipur".

Tuning up

In full swing: The Central Reserve Police Force band rehearsing for the Republic Day parade, on a cold winter morning on Kartavya Path in New Delhi on Monday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

DRDO counter-drone system ready, handed over to private firms

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The counter-drone system developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is ready for production and was already demonstrated to armed services and other internal security agencies with some orders already placed. The DRDO is now focusing on high endurance unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) while the capability for smaller drones exists with the industry.

"The DRDO is making drone-based systems and anti-drone systems based on the requirements of user agencies. The DRDO has developed a comprehensive integrated anti-drone system which comprises detection, identification and neutralisation of a drone...," the Defence Ministry informed the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence in a written reply. This was stated in its 42nd report, "A review of working of DRDO", which was tabled in Parliament recently.

"Three Services have already placed 23 orders on BEL for DRDO-developed technology. The above technology is suitable for detection, identification, and neutralisation of an intruding drone on our land borders also. The solutions can be customised for different challenges."

The Transfer of Technology (ToT) for above technologies has been handed over to private industries, including BEL, Adani, Larsen & Toubro (L&T), and Icom, the Ministry said. The technology is capable of countering attacks, soft kill, and hard kill of all types of drones, including micro drones,

Aiming high: The DRDO carries out flight trial of Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator. FILE PHOTO

which is being developed in the DRDO.

"Anti-drone technology is where the focus should be and in that the DRDO is working very closely with the industry. We are also doing a lot of R&D for doing anti-drone, protection against these types of drones," a representative of the DRDO said. The DRDO is focusing on high-end drones, the panel was informed.

In advanced stage

In this regard, the DRDO said that Tapas Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) UAV developed for the Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) application is in advance stage of developmental trials.

The short-range armed UAV Archer is being developed for reconnaissance, surveillance and low-intensity conflict, and developmental flight trials are under progress.

During the briefing, it was submitted before the committee that drone batteries are unavailable in the country to which the Ministry later replied that the older generation of drones was using nickel-cadmium and silver-zinc batteries as a secondary source of power.

Views sought on guidelines of accessibility in cinemas

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has invited comments on the draft Guidelines of Accessibility Standards in the Public Exhibition of Feature Films in Cinema Theatres for persons with hearing and visual impairment.

The comments can be submitted by February 8.

The guidelines are applicable for those feature films that are certified by the Central Board of Film Certification for public exhibition.

"The focus of these guidelines is not only on the content but also on the information and assistive devices needed by persons with disabilities to enjoy films in cinema theatres," said the notice issued on Monday.

'EC failed to provide substantive response to concerns by INDIA'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has not provided any substantive response to the "genuine concerns" raised by the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc regarding the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs), Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh said in a letter to Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar.

In his January 7 letter, Mr. Ramesh said the poll panel had been repeatedly directing them to "generic FAQs [frequently asked questions]" as the answer book for all queries. He termed its "refusal" to engage with political parties as a matter of grave concern.

Jairam Ramesh

Mr. Ramesh's fresh letter is in response to a letter from the Chief Election Commission that followed a request from INDIA partners for an appointment.

The Opposition alliance has been demanding 100% matching of the voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) slips and EVM inputs, and said the slips should be handed over to voters, who could drop it in a separate box.

SC issues notice on plea by E-gaming Federation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Centre on a plea filed by the E-gaming Federation against the levy of 28% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on all forms of online real-money gaming.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud took note of the submissions of senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the federation, and Additional Solicitor-General N. Venkataramani, for the government, that several High Courts were seized of similar petitions and passing orders.

The court also sought a response from the Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence in two weeks.

Grant of remission a 'classic case' of using SC to violate law: verdict

Several facts regarding the application for premature release in Bilkis case had been suppressed before court, Bench says; it adds that court was defrauded into delivering its decision to consider the plea for pre-mature release under 1992 policy

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said the grant of remission to 11 men serving life sentence in the Bilkis Bano case was a "classic case" of using a Supreme Court order to violate the law.

The court was referring to its May 2022 decision, delivered by a Bench headed by Justice Ajay Rastogi (now retired), allowing Gujarat to decide the application of one of the convicts, Radheshyam Bhagwandas Shah, for premature release in terms of the State's remission policy of July 9, 1992. Following this order from the court, the other 10 convicts had joined in with their pleas for remission.

In its judgment on Monday, a Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan said the court was defrauded into delivering its decision on May 13, 2022. The respondents had not divulged a series of facts which would have tilted the Supreme Court's decision against them.

The judgment pointed out that Shah was told by the Gujarat High Court in 2019 to approach the Maharashtra government with his plea for remission. Following this rebuff, he had moved the Home Department of the Maharashtra government. The department had, in turn, asked the CBI, which had prosecuted the Bilkis Bano case. The agency had replied that Shah ought to "serve his sentence fully" and did not deserve any leniency.

Following this, the Special CBI Court in Mumbai, which had tried the case after its transfer from Gujarat, had also given a negative report to his plea for premature release in January 2020.

The Superintendent of Police in Dahod had, in fact, apprehended the commission of "serious crime" against Ms. Bano and her family if the convict was granted an early release. The Collector/District Magistrate of Dahod had seconded the police officer's negative opinion.

Justice Nagarathna said these facts had been suppressed by Shah in the court in 2022.

The Monday verdict, directing the released convicts to report back to the jail authorities within two weeks, said the May 2022 decision also suffered from a misrepresentation made by Shah that there was a "divergence in opinion" between the Bombay and Gujarat High Courts. In fact, a Gujarat High Court order of March 13, 2020 refusing remission to Shah and reiterating its 2019 position to approach the Maharashtra government was never challenged or set aside.

"That order still holds the field," Justice Nagarathna observed.

Justice Nagarathna also drew attention to how the Gujarat government, in the run-up to the May 2022 decision, had in fact agreed in the top court that Maharashtra was indeed the competent authority to consider the grant of remission. The judge noted how the State had curiously reversed its position and not sought a review of the May 2022 decision.

"The State of Gujarat never sought for the review of the May 13, 2022 order of this court by bringing to the notice of this court that it was contrary to Section 432 (7) and judgments of this court. Instead, the State of Gujarat acted in tandem and was complicit with what the respondent had sought before this court," he said.

The judge added that this conduct of the Gujarat government had been exactly why the court transferred the investigation of the case to the CBI and the trial to the Special Court at Mumbai.

Twists and turns

Following is the timeline of events in the Bilkis Bano case:

Seeking justice: Activists participate in a protest rally in support of Bilkis Bano, in Kolkata on August 24, 2022. AFP

March 3, 2002: A mob descended upon the family of Bilkis Bano, 21, at Randhikpur village near Ahmedabad. She was gang-raped and seven members of her family were murdered

December 16, 2003: Supreme Court orders a CBI inquiry

January 21, 2008: A special court convicts 11 men and sentences them to life imprisonment

May 4, 2017: Bombay High Court upholds the sentence

May 13, 2022: Supreme Court directs Gujarat government to consider the plea of a convict for pre-mature release under its policy of July 9, 1992

August 15, 2022: As part of the Gujarat government's remission policy, 11 convicts are released from the Godhra sub-jail

August 25, 2022: Top court issues notice to the Centre and Gujarat government on a PIL plea against the premature release

November 30, 2022: Bilkis moves SC challenging the remission

December 17, 2022: Court dismisses her plea seeking a review of its May 13 verdict in which it had said the State of Gujarat was the "appropriate government" competent to examine the application for the pre-mature release

March 27, 2023: Court notice to Centre, Gujarat government and others on a plea filed by Bilkis Bano

August 7, 2023: Court starts final hearing on petitions challenging the remission

January 8, 2024: Court quashes remission to 11 convicts

Opposition hails SC order against premature release as 'restoration of justice'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties across the political spectrum on Monday hailed the Supreme Court order that quashed the Gujarat government's remission of sentence and premature release of the 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case, with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge saying the verdict exposed the "misdeeds" of the Home Ministry and the Gujarat government.

The Congress demanded that the BJP apologise to the women and daughters of the country after the Supreme Court verdict.

"'Save the daughter' became 'Save the culprit'! The decision of the Supreme Court in the Bilkis Bano case is the restoration of justice. It exposes the misdeeds of the Home Ministry of Modi government and the Gujarat government," Mr. Kharge said in a X (formerly Twitter) post.

Senior party leader Rahul Gandhi also took to X to target the BJP, and said the verdict had once again shown "who the protector of criminals is".

"The tendency to 'murder justice' for electoral gains is dangerous for a democratic system. Today, the Supreme Court's decision once again showed the country who gives 'patronage to criminals'. Bilkis Bano's tireless struggle symbolises the victory of justice against the arrogant BJP government," Mr. Gandhi said.

> The tendency to 'murder justice' for electoral gains is dangerous for a democratic system. SC decision again showed the country who gives 'patronage to criminals'
> **RAHUL GANDHI**
> Congress leader

'Bold verdict'

West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee said the judgment was bold. "I am grateful to the SC for taking this strong and bold judgment. It proves that the rapists were moving freely and enjoying power," she said.

Trinamool leader Mahua Moitra, Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) leader Subhashini Ali, and independent journalist Revati Laul were among the petitioners who had moved the apex court against the premature release of the convicted rapists.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, in a post on X, welcomed the judgment. "It appears that justice is being delivered to Bilkis Bano finally after two long decades. The brutality of gang rapes and mass murders cannot be brushed aside and the perpetrators remain unpunished," he said

"SC's comment that remission for convicts in Bilkis Bano case was 'obtained by fraud and suppression of facts' has exposed BJP's hollow claims of women's safety and empowerment," Communist Party of India (CPI) general secretary D. Raja said.

"With this order, the veil over the anti-women policies of the Bharatiya Janata Party has been removed. After this, public confidence in the justice system will be further strengthened," Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said on X.

Rule of law doesn't mean protection to a fortunate few: Justice Nagarathna

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the Bilkis Bano judgment on Monday held that personal liberty gained through the breach of law cannot be protected.

A Bench headed by Justice B.V. Nagarathna said that the rule of law was quintessential for personal liberty or any other fundamental right to exist and flourish. Justice Nagarathna, who is in line to be the first woman Chief Justice of India following the seniority norm, said that "those concerned with the rule of law must remain unmindful and unruffled by the ripples caused by it".

"Rule of law does not mean protection to a fortunate few. The very existence of the rule of law and the fear of being brought to book operates as a deterrent to those who have no scruples in killing others if it suits their ends," she observed.

> Article 142 cannot be invoked in favour of respondents to allow them to remain out of jail as that would be an instance of this court's imprimatur to ignore rule of law
> **JUSTICE B.V. NAGARATHNA**
> Supreme Court Judge

The Bench was dealing with a plea by the convicts to invoke its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to let them remain free despite the cancellation of the order for their remission in August 2022.

"Article 142 of the Constitution cannot be invoked by us in favour of respondents to allow them to remain out of jail as that would be an instance of this court's imprimatur to ignore rule of law and instead aid persons who are beneficiaries of orders, which in our view, are null and void and therefore *non est* in the eye of law," Justice Nagarathna reasoned.

The judge said the "courts have to dispense justice and not justice being dispensed with". "In fact, the strength and authority of courts in India are because they are involved in dispensing justice. It should be their life aim," Justice Nagarathna observed.

The judge said there is no room for compassion or sympathy when the rule of law has to be enforced. The courts should be dispassionate, objective and analytical.

Everyone within the framework of the rule of law must accept the system, render due obedience to orders made and in the event of failure of compliance, the rod of justice must descend down to punish, she stressed.

Avoid *en masse* remission without application of mind: Supreme Court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday clarified that a collective remission of sentence by a State ahead of "festive occasions" without applying its mind to the individual facts and circumstances of cases is bad in law.

"There has to be an application of mind on the remission application so as to eliminate discretionary *en masse* release of convicts on 'festive' occasions. Each release requires a case-by-case scrutiny," a Bench headed by Justice B.V. Nagarathna observed in its verdict in the Bilkis Bano case. The Gujarat government had issued the order of remission of 11 life convicts in the Bilkis case on August 10, 2022, just days ahead of Independence Day. The court cautioned States from exercising the power of remission in an arbitrary fashion.

A key verdict: Abdul Razzaq Mansuri, a witness in the Bilkis Bano case, addressing presspersons in Gujarat on Monday. PTI

Justice Nagarathna said the grant of remission should be well-informed, reasonable and fair to "all concerned". The court said the statutory procedure under Section 432 (power to remit and suspend sentence) of the Code of Criminal Procedure provided a check on the possible misuse of power by the State government.

Outlines factors

The judgment gave a brief outlining of the factors a State government should take into account while entertaining the remission application of a convict.

It said that the opinion of the presiding trial judge should be mandatorily sought and only the State in which the convict was convicted would be competent under Section 432 to consider the remission plea. The court noted that the State should confirm compliance with Section 433A of the Code as only a life convict who had served 14 years of prison sentence could seek remission.

"The policy of remission applicable at the time of the conviction could apply, and only if for any reason, the said policy cannot be made applicable, a more benevolent policy, if in vogue, could apply," the judgment noted.

This is what justice feels like, says Bilkis Bano

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

After the Supreme Court quashed the decision to grant remission to 11 convicts who were found guilty of gang rape of Bilkis Bano and murder of her family, she said "today is truly the New Year for me".

"This is what justice feels like. I thank the honourable Supreme Court for giving me, my children and women everywhere this vindication and hope in the promise of equal justice for all," she said.

"I have wept tears of relief. I have smiled for the first time in over a year and a half. It feels like a stone the size of a mountain has been lifted from my chest, and I can breathe again," she said.

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF KNOWLEDGE TECHNOLOGIES
(Established through Act No.18 of 2008)
ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA
RGUKT-AP/Temporary/Contract Faculty Recruitment/2024, Dt.09.01.2024
NOTIFICATION
RGUKT invites applications for contract faculty positions from eligible candidates in various disciplines on temporary basis for its constituent institutions. Interested candidates can apply through online link available on the university website **www.rgukt.in** on or before **05:00 PM on 22-01-2024.** For further details please visit the university website: **www.rgukt.in.**
DIPR 2598PP/CL, Dt.08-01-2024 — Sd/- Registrar

Office of the Electricity Department
THRISSUR CORPORATION
THRISSUR
ED1-7787/23 Dated : 08.01.2024
e-Tender Notice
"SUPPLY OF SINGLE & THREE PHASE METER"
log on to :
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Last Date : 29.01.2024
(Sd/-) Assistant Secretary

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY KAKINADA
KAKINADA - 533 003, Andhra Pradesh, India
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Tender Notice
e-Procurement Tender Notice No.06/JNTUK/ED/KKD/2023-24 Date: 08/01/2024

S.No.	Name of the Work	Value in Rs. (Approx)
	JNTUK, KAKINADA CAMPUS	
1	Laying of Synthetic Athletic Track (8 lanes) in the campus of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Kakinada	9.03 Cr

The bidders can view /download from **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** market place. Further details contact at Office of Chief Engineer, JNTUK, Kakinada
Sd/- Chief Engineer, Ph No. 0884-2300864

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project

Sl. No.	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	PAC Amount	Bid Submission Last Date
1	Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart City Mission Corporation Roads in Thiruvananthapuram :			
1.1	Pumping Station Road (ID 45)	2023_SCTLT_617140_4	Rs.4,97,44,352/-	11th Jan 2024
1.2	Shanthi Nagar (ID 73)	2023_SCTLT_626242_2	Rs.1,95,65,177/-	11th Jan 2024
1.3	Ruby Nagar Road Road (ID 184)	2023_SCTLT_628144_2	Rs.82,65,245/-	11th Jan 2024
1.4	Vrindavan Colony Road (ID 183)	2023_SCTLT_627989_2	Rs.2,75,87,578/-	11th Jan 2024

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail. All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website https://etenders.kerala.gov.in
(sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
Office of the Chief Engineer — Tender Notice
Adv.No.87/D3/CE/TTD/2023-24 & NIT No.332 & 336/SE-II/TTD/2023-24 Dt:07-01-2024
Name of works: 1) Facility management Services for house-keeping, sanitation and maintenance of Srivari Sevasadan I & II, PAC-III, PAC-IV (portion for Akanda Harinama Sankeerthana devotees halls) Mathrusri Vakulamata Devi Rest House (MVRH) and B Type quarters 32 nos (15 to 18, 21 to 24, 29 to 32, 36 to 39, 45 to 56, 61 to 64), D type-30 nos (91 to 120), Staff quarters 1 to 30 -30 nos at Tirumala **(under VI package)** for the years 2024-27 (3 years) **Open Tender Type**, Time for completion 36 months. **(2)** Facility management Services for House Keeping, Sanitation and Maintenance of VSRH-I & II, SPT, RBRH-I, II & III, & SGRH and Vakula Bhavan areas at Tirumala (North-Package) for the years 2024-27 (three years) **Open Tender type**, Time for completion 36 months. NOTE: For full details log on to the website **https://www.tirumala.org.**
Roc.No.PR4/13962/Adv.No.334/PRO/2024, Dated:08-01-2024 — EXECUTIVE OFFICER

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BOLANGIR.
e - Procurement NOTICE

1.	Name of Work	:	**Construction of Govt. Upgraded High School Building at Jhartarva in Tarva Block of Subarnapur District.**
2.	No. of Works	:	**1 (One) work.**
3.	Time for Completion	:	**15 (Fifteen)** calendar months
4.	Approximate Estimated Cost	:	**Rs.345.03 lakhs**
5.	Mode of Submission of tender	:	Tender should be submitted online in **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
6.	**Other details are as follow**		

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir.	BLGR-Online-41/2023-24	16.01.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	30.01.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.	29.01.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.	31.01.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	The date will be intimated later on

- Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
- Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.

O-2137 : **Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir**
OIPR-25118/11/0068/2324

Bharat Coking Coal Limited
A Mini Ratna Company
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
www.bcclweb.in
Invitation for prospective bidders' meet/conference to carry out study for enhancement of coal evacuation capacity in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL).
BCCL desires to conduct a prospective bidders' meet/conference to carry out study for enhancement of Coal evacuation capacity in BCCL.

Description of Job	To carry out study for enhancement of coal evacuation capacity in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and provide a detailed report outlining the findings, recommendations, and a roadmap for implementation.
Due date for submitting contact details and other information	The interested parties are requested to submit contact details and other information as deliberated in "Information to be furnished by the interested Consultancy Firms/Organizations/prospective bidders" **on or before 21.01.2024** through e-mail to **gmcmc.bccl@coalindia.in**
Date of Meeting	Actual date of meeting/conference shall be communicated after furnishing of contact details and other information from prospective bidders.

Note: All details can be downloaded from **www.bcclweb.in**, **www.coalindiatenders.nic.in** & **www.coalindia.in** — General Manager (CMC)

TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)
(A Government of Gujarat Undertaking)
Udyog Bhavan, Block No. 16, 4th Floor,
Sector-11, Gandhinagar-382 011
Website: https://www.gujarattourism.com
TENDER NOTICE
Bids are invited from reputed and experienced parties for **"Operation and Maintenance (including Renovation / Improvement) of Hotel (Sumeru) at Palitana".**
The project requirements, technical specifications, eligibility criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the Tender documents, which shall be available for download from the websites: **https://tender.nprocure.com/** and **https://www.gujarattourism.com** from12/01/2024 onwards.
The last date for submission of the **Technical Bid and Financial Bid (online only) is 02/02/2024 up to 6:00 pm. and Technical Bid (physical only) is 05/02/2024 up to 3:00 pm.**
Managing Director

INBRIEF

Four more NCC units to be raised in J&K and Ladakh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal to raise four more units of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, which is an addition of 12,860 cadets, the Ministry said on Monday. The approval is for one mixed (boys and girls) Army battalion each at Udhampur and Kupwara in J&K and Kargil in Ladakh, and one Air squadron at Udhampur. "In addition to the existing 27,870 cadets, the strength in J&K and Ladakh will increase by 12,860," it said. Currently, the NCC Directorate has two Group Headquarters, with 10 units, covering the three regions, the Ministry added.

Defence officials deny ULFA(I) claim of three drone attacks

The United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I), the only extremist group of Assam not pursuing peace, said on Monday that two of its members were injured in three drone attacks on one of its mobile units in Myanmar. The outfit, led by Paresh Baruah, claimed Indian security forces carried out the attacks. "The Indian occupational forces carried out three bomb attacks on a Myanmar-based mobile camp of the ULFA. The attacks were carried out on January 7 at 4:10 p.m., 4:12 p.m. and 4:20 p.m. Two of our members sustained minor injuries," the outfit said. Defence officials based in Assam and States bordering Myanmar said they were unaware of any drone attack and ULFA(I) made such claims "by habit".

'Viksit Bharat Yatra aims to help schemes reach all beneficiaries'

The Prime Minister says that over 12 lakh new applications received for Ujjwala scheme since the start of the yatra, adding that health check-up of two crore people has been carried out; he says that 'Modi Ki Guarantee' has become a buzz word

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi interacts with beneficiaries of the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' on Monday. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the main goal of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) was to ensure that government schemes reached all deserving people.

After interacting with the VBSY beneficiaries through video conference, Mr. Modi said the drive recently completed 50 days and had connected with about 11 crore people. "Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra has become not only the journey of the government but also the journey of the country," he said.

The Prime Minister said the "Modi *ki* Guarantee" vehicles, along with officials and people's representatives, were reaching every nook and cranny of the country. "The poor people who spent their lives waiting to get the benefits of government schemes are seeing a meaningful change today. The government is reaching the doorsteps of the beneficiaries and proactively providing the benefits," he said.

On the "global buzz" about "Modi *ki* Guarantee", he underlined the link between the resolution of a "Viksit Bharat" and the saturation of the scheme coverage.

"Our government wants the present and future generations not to have to live the life that the earlier generation lived. We want to get a large population of the country out of the struggle for small daily needs. Therefore, we are focusing on the future of the poor, farmers, women, and youth. When the poor, farmers, women, and youth are empowered, the country will become powerful," he said. Since the drive was launched, nearly 12 lakh new applications for Ujjwala connections were received along with lakhs of applications for the Suraksha Bima Yojana, Jeevan Jyoti Yojana, PM SVANidhi," he said.

Mr. Modi said health check-ups for over two crore people had been carried out so far, including one crore TB and 22 lakh sickle cell check-ups. He said the doctors were reaching the doorsteps of the poor, Dalits, the deprived and the tribal people, which was considered a challenge by previous governments. He talked about the benefits of Ayushman Yojana, which provides health insurance of ₹5 lakh, and Jan Aushadhi Kendras for the needy.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the government's impact on women's empowerment through schemes such as the Mudra Yojna, and their role as Bank Mitras, *Pashu Sakhis*, and ASHA workers. In the past decade, 10 crore women had joined self-help groups, where over ₹7.5 lakh crore had been provided to them, he noted, adding that this had helped a large number of women become financially independent over the years.

> Our government wants the present and future generations not to have to live the life that the earlier generation lived
>
> **NARENDRA MODI**
> Prime Minister

He said the government has planned to further increase the number of such beneficiaries to two crore, via programmes like "Na-Mo Drone Didi Scheme" under which about one lakh drones had been demonstrated during VBSY.

Stating that in the earlier governments, the scope of discussions on the agricultural policy was only limited to production and sale, neglecting the various issues faced by farmers daily, he said the government led by him had made all-out efforts to ease every difficulty of the farmers. He listed the initiatives taken for them.

Jamiat faults govt. role in Ram Temple ceremony

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

Voices of objection to the perceived participation of the Union government in the Ram Temple inauguration are being raised in non-political circles. At its central working committee meeting recently, the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, the oldest Muslim body in India, called the "active participation of the government as an attempt to unduly influence next elections".

"In light of the recent events surrounding the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind deems it necessary to draw the attention of the government and law enforcement agencies to concerns about the breach of peace and attempts to harass and intimidate the minority community. The escalating atmosphere of animosity within the country is detrimental to its overall well-being," Niaz Ahmed Farooqui, Jamiat's secretary, said.

The body urged the government and its institutions "to refrain from adopting biased policies", and appealed "to citizens to make every possible effort to uphold law and order and maintain peace in these challenging circumstances".

GIFT City is set to host 10th Gujarat global investment summit from tomorrow

Mahesh Langa
GANDHINAGAR

Preparations are on ahead of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in Gandhinagar PTI

Gujarat is all set to host the 10th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Investment Summit, which will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the presence of several heads of States, policymakers, diplomats, top industrialists and business executives, here on Wednesday.

The event will have participation from over 100 countries, while around 30 countries have joined as partners and a dozen international organisations have also joined hands with the State government to promote the event as a key platform for fostering collaboration and exploring opportunities.

According to State government officials, the three-day summit is expected to bring in around 1,00,000 visitors, including chief executives, business leaders and executives, policymakers and Ministers and diplomats, from over 100 countries.

Focusing on futuristic technology, the summit will explore sectors such as semiconductors, green hydrogen, e-mobility, space manufacturing, renewable energy besides financial services and technology at the GIFT City.

The PM's itinerary

A day before the summit, Mr. Modi and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan will lead a roadshow on Tuesday from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport. The three-km roadshow will start in the evening after Mr. Modi receives the UAE President at the airport, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic-East), Ahmedabad city, Safin Hasan.

"The roadshow will culminate at Indira Bridge, which connects Ahmedabad with Gandhinagar. From the bridge circle, both dignitaries will head to Gandhinagar," the official said.

I have to form Bench to hear plea against collegium system: CJI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Monday said he would have to constitute a Bench of the Supreme Court to hear a petition seeking an end to the collegium system of judicial appointments.

"I will have to constitute a Bench," Chief Justice Chandrachud told advocate Mathews J Nedumpara tersely.

Mr. Nedumpara has been repeatedly, over the past several months, mentioning the case to be heard.

Revival of NJAC

The petition seeks the revival of the National Judicial Appointments Commission, or NJAC, which briefly gave the government an equal role along with the judiciary in the appointment of judges to the constitutional courts before it was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2015.

The petition was filed early last year amidst the verbal attacks by then Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on the collegium system, calling it opaque.

It said the Constitution Bench judgment of October 2015 had thwarted the "will of the people" by striking down the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act which introduced the NJAC mechanism.

The petition has said the 2015 judgment should be rendered *void ab initio* as it had revived the collegium system. The petitioners called the collegium system a "synonym for nepotism and favouritism."

Modi lauds Hasina on poll victory in Bangladesh, seeks people-centric partnership

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Courtesy call: Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma meets Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka. AFP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday called up Sheikh Hasina, who was re-elected Prime Minister of Bangladesh, and congratulated her on her victory in the national election.

"Spoke to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and congratulated her on her victory for a historic fourth consecutive term in the parliamentary elections. We are committed to further strengthen our enduring and people-centric partnership with Bangladesh," Mr. Modi announced on X.

"Honourable Indian Prime Minister called our Honourable Prime Minister at 6.45 p.m. and greeted on her victory," the Assistant Press Secretary to the Prime Minister, M.M. Emrul Kayas, told state-run news channel *BSS*.

The news channel said Mr. Modi has congratulated the people of Bangladesh on holding the general election. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in response, thanked Mr. Modi.

Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Pranay Verma called on Ms. Hasina earlier in the day and congratulated her. Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk also called up Ms. Hasina and congratulated her. Chinese Ambassador to Dhaka Yao Wen met Ms. Hasina and conveyed greetings on her victory in the election.

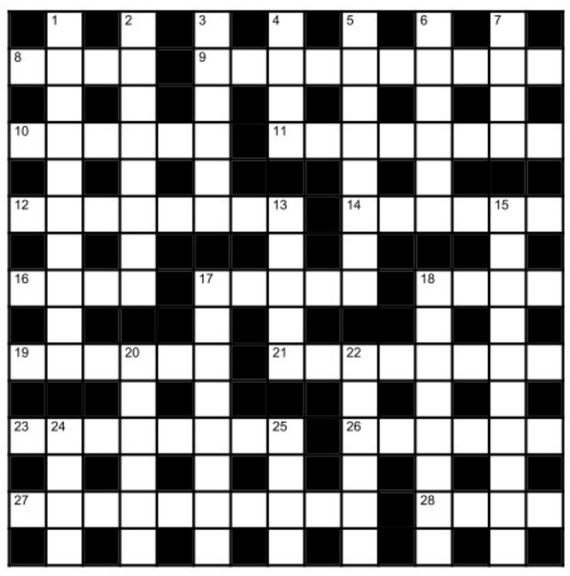
RELATED REPORT
» WORLD PAGE

CROSSWORD + 14067

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Oddly, Somalia gives up aim too (4)
9 Love friend covering silly point by choice (10)
10 In absence of emirs, revolutionary supremacist misbehaves (4,2)
11 In case of plans getting changed, aid is arranged for knights of Charlemagne's court (8)
12 Idiots observe tax-payer, for example (8)
14 Sin around English city (6)
16 Waterside structure has food item, right? (4)
17 Rug he made is larger (5)
18 Promote electrical connector (4)
19 Picked child with crooked nose (6)
21 These Africans, to some extent, are Danes (8)
23 For example, I swim with a piece of minimal attire (8)
26 Saint following Ottoman officer is filled with horror (6)
27 Father or son, both presidents, beg her, "Go travelling around United States" (6,4)
28 A hammer may miss this and hit the one on hand! (4)

Down

1 Metal worker's boy does not have famous technology institute help at first (10)
2 Gentleman's address in France (8)
3 American followed the Little Corporal for money (6)
4 Tread and squash pest (4)
5 Endlessly love to be in shady place and amaze (4,4)
6 A bowler's dream girl (6)
7 Start to create network for tribe (4)
13 Ran away from exploding grenades for flanks (5)
15 Sure! Chip is prepared in vessel (6,4)
17 Deliver Chinese port (8)
18 Liking prison incantation (8)
20 South African chance to show planet (6)
22 Old silver coin and card tossed by His Majesty (6)
24 Half of Beirut is confused with kiss for animal (4)
25 Girl gets gold ring at first for animal (4)

SUDOKU

	8							
6	3	5			1	8		
		2	4			5	7	
					5	2	6	
			7		6			
	6	3	1					
	4	6			2	1		
		1	3			6	4	5
							2	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	P		P		S		S		C		R		B	
R	A	C	E		W	A	T	E	R		A	P	E	X
	L		C		I		O		A		N		L	
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	A		R		S		S		L		E		H	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	2	9	7	6	3	1	5	8
6	3	8	9	5	1	2	7	4
5	7	1	8	4	2	6	3	9
2	5	7	4	1	8	3	9	6
8	9	4	2	3	6	7	1	5
3	1	6	5	7	9	4	8	2
1	4	3	6	9	5	8	2	7
9	6	2	3	8	7	5	4	1
7	8	5	1	2	4	9	6	3

FAITH

Respect for all life forms

When man assumes that everything in the world is created for him, he becomes arrogant. When we do not respect Nature, then the consequences can be disastrous. Many species of animals are on the verge of extinction, because men hunted them down for sport. Many trees and plants are lost because of our callousness. But the ancient Tamils had a healthy respect for Nature, as is seen from Tamil literature, said Malayaman in a discourse.

In *Akananooru*, we read of a man driving a chariot. The bells of the chariot jingle. The hero of the poem sees a swarm of bees on the bushes by the side of the road. He is afraid that the sound of the bells will frighten the bees away. So he stops his chariot, and ties up the clapper in every bell, so that the bells make no sound. So considerate is this man even towards bees!

King Paari saw a jasmine creeper that was trailing on the ground without support. He got off his chariot, and draped the creeper over it. *Silappadikaram* tells the story of King Shibi. An eagle chased a dove in order to kill it and eat it. When Shibi saw the plight of the dove, he offered his own flesh to the eagle as food, so that it would not kill the dove. After all, the eagle just needed flesh as food. What did it matter if it was the dove's or his own, was Shibi's reasoning.

JERUSALEM

Germany ready to lift veto on sale of Eurofighter jets to Saudi Arabia

AFP

Germany defended plans to lift it's long standing veto on sales of Eurofighter jets to Saudi Arabia, saying Riyadh has adopted a "constructive approach" in the Israel-Hamas war. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, on a visit to Israel on Sunday, signalled that Berlin was ready to lift its blockade. AFP

PESHAWAR

TTP kills six Pakistani policemen going to escort vaccination team

AP

A bomb explosion targeting policemen going to provide security for polio vaccination workers killed at least six of them and injured 22 others in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which has been fighting to impose the rule of Sharia across the Islamic country, took responsibility for the attack. PTI

BEIJING

China a 'valued ally and integral collaborator': Maldives's Muizzu

ANI

Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu, who arrived in China on his first state visit, praised Beijing as a "valued ally and integral collaborator" of the island nation and hailed the cooperation between the two countries. Muizzu, regarded as "pro-China", met provincial officials in Fujian on the first day of his five-day visit. PTI

KYIV

Russia evacuates hundreds from border city amid Ukrainian strikes

AFP

Russia said it had moved some 300 people from the border city of Belgorod due to Ukrainian shelling, the biggest evacuation from a major Russian city since the conflict began. The unprecedented announcement follows waves of deadly strikes by Kyiv's forces on Belgorod, which lies less than 32 km from the Ukrainian border. AFP

Back in power, Hasina says election was free and fair

Prime Minister brands Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party 'a terrorist organisation'; UN rights chief asks government to ensure that human rights of all Bangladeshis are taken into account

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday dismissed the Opposition's criticism of the country's general election as "illegitimate" as she celebrated securing her fifth term in power.

Ms. Hasina has presided over breakneck economic growth in a country once beset by grinding poverty, but her government has been accused of rampant human rights abuses and a ruthless crackdown on dissent.

"The election was free and fair," Mr. Hasina told reporters in her first comments since the vote on Sunday, where her party took three-quarters of seats in parliament after polls boycotted by the opposition, with the turnout a meagre 41.8%.

New innings: Sheikh Hasina, left, arrives to address a press conference following her election victory in Dhaka on Monday. AP

The Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which has seen its ranks diminished by mass arrests, called a general strike and, along with dozens of others, refused to participate.

Senior BNP leader Moyeen Khan called it a "fake election" and said the government was "illegitimate", he told reporters in Dhaka on Monday.

Ms. Hasina, 76, branded the BNP "a terrorist organisation".

UN rights chief Volker Turk on Monday implored the government to "ensure that the human rights of all Bangladeshis are fully taken into account".

Election Commission secretary Moniruzzaman Talukder said Ms. Hasina's party had won 222 seats in Sunday's polls – revised down by a seat from an earlier declared 223 – but the support of other lawmakers means her actual control over the 300-seat parliament is even higher, analysts said.

Israeli attack kills top Hezbollah commander

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

Israel killed a top commander of Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, a security source said on Monday, as Washington's top diplomat visits West Asia seeking to avert a widening of the Israel-Hamas war.

Israel pounded targets in the Gaza Strip, where a militant group reported fierce ground combat.

The Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said it had recorded 249 deaths in the previous 24 hours.

On Monday, Hezbollah announced the killing of a "commander" for the first time, naming him as Wissam Hassan Tawil.

A security source in Lebanon, requesting anonymity, said Tawil "had a leading role in managing Hezbollah's operations in the south", and was killed there by an Israeli strike targeting his car.

Wissam Hassan Tawil

High-profile killing

His is the second high-profile killing in Lebanon since last week, when a strike in a Beirut stronghold of Hezbollah killed Hamas deputy leader Saleh al-Aruri.

A U.S. Defence Department official said that Israel carried out the strike.

On his fourth regional trip since the war began, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Saudi Arabia after talks earlier Monday in Abu Dhabi.

Blinken's visit

Mr. Blinken "emphasised the importance of preventing further spread of the conflict", during talks with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

He will later meet Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the desert city of Al-Ula, a U.S. official said on condition of anonymity. Early in the war, Riyadh said it had suspended talks with Israel on normalising ties.

On Monday, Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas was in Cairo to meet President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi of Egypt, a mediator in the conflict.

Al Jazeera slams Israel for killing its journalists

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

Al Jazeera said on Sunday two of its Palestinian journalists in the Gaza Strip were killed in an Israeli strike on their car, in what the Qatar-based media network claimed was a "targeted killing".

Hamza Wael Dahdouh and Mustafa Thuria were killed while they were "on their way to carry out their duty" for the channel in the Gaza Strip, the network said. A third freelance journalist was seriously injured.

Al Jazeera said it "strongly condemns the Israeli forces' targeting of the Palestinian journalists' car", accusing Israel of "targeting" journalists and "violating the principles of freedom of the press".

Pope Francis calls for universal ban on surrogate parenting

Reuters
VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis called on Monday for a global ban on parenting via surrogacy, calling the practice "deplorable" and a grave violation of the dignity of the woman and the child.

"I deem deplorable the practice of so-called surrogate motherhood, which represents a grave violation of the dignity of the woman and the child, based on the exploitation of situations of the mother's material needs," he said at his "state of the world" speech.

He criticised gender theory, saying it is extremely dangerous in its attempt to make everyone equal

Francis also reaffirmed the Vatican's condemnation of gender theory, which suggests that gender is more complex and fluid than the binary categories and depends on more than visible sex characteristics. He called the theory "extremely dangerous since it cancels differences in its claim to make everyone equal".

French PM resigns as Macron seeks to relaunch presidency

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne resigned on Monday as President Emmanuel Macron prepared to unveil a long-awaited Cabinet reshuffle in a bid to give new momentum to the final three years of his presidency.

After days of intense behind-the-scenes manoeuvring, Education Minister Gabriel Attal, 34, was emerging as the favourite to succeed Borne, whose successor has yet to be named. If appointed, Mr. Attal would be France's youngest ever and first openly gay prime minister.

Image makeover

Commentators see the reshuffle as essential to relaunch Mr. Macron's centrist presidency for its last three years and prevent him from becoming a "lame duck" leader after a series of crises.

Since he defeated the far right to win a second term in 2022, Macron has faced protests over unpopular pension reforms, the loss of his overall majority in parliamentary elections and controversy over immigration legislation.

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ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ
ಮುಚಖಂಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ನವನಗರ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ – 587 103. ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ: ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 08354–235370, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: apmcbagalkote@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ.(ಬಾ)/877/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 05–01–2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿಯ, ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಹಣವನ್ನು ನಿಶ್ಚಿತ ಠೇವಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು, ಬ್ಯಾಂಕುಗಳಿಂದ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ಬಡ್ಡಿದರವನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿ, ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ https://kppp.karanataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

APMC/2023-24/SE0184/Call-2

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.
ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ/287/ಮಗೆಜಾರ್/2023–24

Department of Health & Family Welfare
KARNATAKA STATE AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bangalore - 560 023.
Tel.: 080-2955 7021, e-mail : pdksaps@gmail.com

No: KSAPS/PRC/18/2023-24 Date:08.01.2024

Invitation For tenders through e-Procurement

Tenders (Two Covers) are invited for Printing & Supply of ART Registers, Formats & Cards under e-procurement System. Details are available at e-procurement website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Last date for submission of tender is 29.01.2024 upto 5.30 p.m.

Sd/- Project Director
Karnataka State Aids Prevention Society

DIPR/CP/JA/2945/2023-24

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Civil Engineering Department, Central Offices, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027.

No.: BMTC/CO/CE/EE/1437-1441/2023-24 Date: 06.01.2024

E –PROCUREMENT SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No.23-27/2023-24

Tenders are invited for the works of **1) "Providing Cement Concrete Pavement to Parking Area and other developmental Works at Depot-44, Anjanapura, Bengaluru".** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 293.00 Lakhs** and EMD: **Rs. 4,40,000/-. 2) "Construction of administrative building and repair bays at Depot-04, Jayanagar, Bengaluru".** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 380.00 Lakhs** and EMD: **Rs. 5,70,000/-. 3) "Construction of administrative building and repair bays at Depot-06, Indiranagar, Bengaluru".** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 381.00 Lakhs** and EMD: **Rs. 5,72,000/- 4) "Construction of Fire Hydrant drive way in Koramangala TTMC, Bengaluru".** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 94.00 Lakhs** and EMD: **Rs. 1,88,000/-** and **5) "Development of Civil Infrastructural works for Electrical Vehicle opportunity charging station, construction of compound wall, canteen, CC pavement etc at Depot-7, Subhashnagar, Bengaluru".** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 238.00 Lakhs** and EMD: **Rs. 3,57,000/-.** Participating bidders will have to upload all information, documents and rates etc. in e-procurement website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only. Documents will not be accepted in person physically.

(1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **22.01.2024,** Date of opening of tender: **24.01.2024. (2)** Any other information required can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer during working hours or through website: **kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BMTC

Oppenheimer tops Golden Globes on bittersweet night for *Barbie*

Agence France-Presse
LOS ANGELES

Oppenheimer, Christopher Nolan's drama about the inventor of the atomic bomb, topped the Golden Globes on Sunday, but its fellow summer smash hit *Barbie* missed out on best comedy film honors to *Poor Things*.

Oppenheimer took five prizes including best drama, best director for Nolan, best score, as well as acting trophies for Cillian Murphy and Robert Downey Jr. Nolan was drawn to the "tragedy" of J. Robert Oppenheimer, a scientist who remained loyal to his country and never apologiged for his actions, yet was "wracked by tremendous guilt."

Victory moment: Cillian Murphy and Robert Downey Jr. at the 81st annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills in California. REUTERS

Barbie was the leading film heading into the night with nine nominations, but ended the gala with just two prizes. It won the award for best song, for a tune written by Billie Eilish and her brother Finneas. And as the year's highest grossing movie, it claimed a newly created trophy for box office achievement.

Long billed as "Hollywood's biggest party," the Globes were boycotted by the industry after allegations of corruption and racism emerged in 2021, and the show was taken off air a year later.

Recent rejig

The controversial group of LA-based foreign journalists that created the Globes 80 years ago has since been disbanded, and a wider net of overseas critics was brought in to choose this year's winners.

Indigenous actor Lily Gladstone won best female actor in a drama for her role in Martin Scorsese's *Killers of the Flower Moon*.

The Netflix comedy-drama *Beef* won best television limited series, with leads Ali Wong and Steven Yeun bringing home best female and male actor. They were the first Globe wins for both actors and a nod to an Asian-led series.

ZILLA PANCHAYATH, RAMANAGARA
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division
Office of the Executive Engineer, RDWS&SD,
Panchayath Bhavan, 3rd Floor, Ramanagara Division, Ramanagara.

Tender Notification No. : 13/EE/RDWS&SD/RMG/Tender/AE-01/ JJM/1929/2023-24/Call-9 Date : 08-01-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Rural Water Supply And Sanitation Division Ramanagara is inviting on behalf of **Governor of Karnataka State under Two Cover Bid System** as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement ACT 1999 and Rules 2000 **Standard Bid Document KW - 2, KW - 3 and KW - 4** for Water Supply Works under **JJM** through e-procurement from PWD / PRED Registered Contractors as per the schedule given below.

1) Max Amount Put to Tender : Rs. 115.24 Lakhs. EMD : Rs. 2,00,000.00/-. 2) Min Amount Put to Tender : Rs. 26.81 Lakhs. EMD : Rs. 53,620.00/-. 3) Period of Contract : 06 Months. 4) Last Date for Submission of Tender : 22-01-2024 upto 5.00 p.m. 5) Opening of Technical Bid of the Tender : 24-01-2024 at 11.00 a.m. onwards. 6) Opening of Financial Bid of the Tender : 29-01-2024 at 11.00 a.m. onwards.

For further particulars / details may avail from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours on all working days and may visit the **Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
RDW&S Division, Ramanagara.

DIPR/Ramanagar/393/Manipal/2023-24

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that, our client intends to PURCHASE the immovable property more fully described in the schedule property hereunder from present owners i.e., **Mr. K.N.V. Raghavan,** Son of Mr. C. Narasimhan and **Mrs. Rajalakshmi Raghavan,** wife of Mr. K.N.V. Raghavan, both are residing at Chartered Kuteer, 14 MN Krishna Rao Road, Lalbagh West Gate, Basavanagudi, Bangalore.

Any persons, financial institutions having any sort of claim / rights / interest / charge on the below said property or any objections for the said sale of the property may file their objections in writing along with supporting documents, addressed to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be construed that there are no claims of any sort over the below said property and our client shall be advised to proceed with the proposed transaction. Any claims thereafter shall not be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential property plot No.253, property No.150200100100700275, Janjuru No.275/253, measuring 373.36 square meters (i.e., 4018.84 square feet) in the layout known as CITILIGHTS SEASONS PHASE 1, formed in the larger property, situated at Chikkadunnasandra Village, Sarjapur Hobli, Anekal Taluk, (Bikkanahosahalli Dakhele) along with all common areas and amenities, roads and parks of the said layout and duly approved by the Anekal Planning Authority vide No. APA/LAO/36/2008-09, dated:11.09.2009 and revised sanctioned plan No. APA/LAO/36/2008-09_1, dated: 20.01.2020 and bounded on the ;

East by : Plot No.254;
West by : Plot No.252;
North by : Plot No.256;
South by : 12 Mtrs Road.

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Sd/- **LAW PARK ASSOCIATES,** Advocate
6th Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore-560 102.
+91 80 41715959 / +91 98456 65379
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INBRIEF

Ashok Leyland 2023 CV sales surpass pre-COVID volumes

Ashok Leyland has clocked the highest sales volume of 1.98 lakh commercial vehicles in the CY23, surpassing the previous high of 1.97 lakh achieved in the pre-COVID period of CY18. In CY21, the leading commercial vehicle manufacturer had sold 1.81 lakh CVs. "The record sale in CY23 is propelled by a convergence of key factors such as economic growth in key sectors, which has created a huge demand for our products," said MD & CEO Shenu Agarwal.

Mercedes-Benz India to invest ₹200 crore, rolls out new GLS

Mercedes-Benz India has announced an investment of ₹200 crore towards manufacturing operations, new product start-ups, capacity expansion, and digitisation of manufacturing processes at its factory in Chakan near Pune this year. With this, the company said it would have a cumulative investment of ₹3,000 crore in India. The company on Monday introduced the new GLS luxury SUV in petrol and diesel variants starting from ₹1.32 crore (ex-showroom India).

Boeing 737-8 Max inspection 'satisfactory', says DGCA

Inspection of Boeing 737-8 Max aircraft in Indian airline fleets was "satisfactory", the DGCA said on Monday. This follows a mid-air incident involving Alaska Airlines in the U.S. Air India Express, Akasa Air and SpiceJet have a total of 32 Boeing 737-8 Max in their fleet. Though these are different from the 737-9 Max involved in the U.S. incident, Akasa was found to have a similar door in its passenger cabin, and its operational check too was "completed satisfactorily", DGCA said.

Onions, tomatoes, pulses bump up veggie plate prices by 12% in Dec.

Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics' monthly report on food plate costs indicates consumer food price inflation may have risen beyond November's 8.7% pace; National Statistical Office to release December retail inflation numbers this Friday

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In an indication that food inflation pressures may have worsened in December, the cost of putting together a vegetarian food plate shot up 12% year-on-year last month, compared with 9% in November YoY, as per a monthly food plate costs' tracker compiled by Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics.

The primary source of food inflation in December were onions and tomatoes, which recorded price spikes of 82% and 42%, respectively, while price of pulses accelerated 24% from December 2022 levels. India's overall consumer prices had risen at a three-month high pace of 5.55% in November, while food price inflation had surged to 8.7% owing to steeper price rise in vegetables, pulses, fruits, and sugar. The Consumer Price Index for December will be released by the National Statistical Office on Friday.

According to Crisil's research, a typical vegetarian food plate, which includes rotis, vegetables, rice, dal, curd and salad, cost ₹29.7 in December, about 3% lower than November, but still the second steepest in four months.

The sequential easing in vegetarian plate costs was due to a 14% and 3% on-month decrease in prices of onion and tomato, respectively, with the festive season coming to an end, the firm said on Monday.

By contrast, the average price of a typical non-vegetarian plate, which replaces the dal component in a vegetarian Thali with chicken, however, dropped 4% from December 2022 levels. This was attributed to a 15% dip in prices of broilers, which account for about 50% of a non-vegetarian plate cost.

Broiler production

With broilers' production high, their prices fell 5% to 7% on a month-on-month basis, bringing the average non-vegetarian plate's cost down 5% to ₹57.6 from ₹60.4 in November 2023.

The 'OTP' effect

Onions, tomatoes record price spikes of 82% and 42% YoY, respectively; prices of pulses increased 24%

- Veg. food plate cost ₹29.7 in Dec., 3% lower than Nov., but still the second steepest in 4 months
- Sequential easing due to 14% and 3% on-month decrease in onion and tomato prices respectively

- Non-vegetarian plate costs drop 4% YoY and 5% from November levels due to cheaper broilers

Brace for slower economic growth in 2024-25, says Crisil

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Real GDP grew 7.7% in the first half of the year, and the NSO anticipates annual growth to hit 7.3%

The slowdown in economic growth in the second half of 2023-24 projected by the National Statistical Office (NSO) is expected to persist in the coming financial year, rating firm Crisil said on Monday.

Real GDP grew 7.7% in the first half of the year, and the NSO anticipates annual growth to hit 7.3%.

"The first advance estimates bake in a slowdown in the second half relative to the first half of this fiscal. The latter half slowdown has been driven by weaker private consumption, especially rural demand, and the bite of rising interest rates. We expect the slowdown to continue next fiscal," Crisil economists said.

The key reasons cited for further softening in economic momentum include weaker global growth – expected to ease to 2.8% in 2024 from 3.3% in 2023 – and high interest rates whose transmission is still playing out, hurting domestic demand.

"As government moves a step further to reducing fiscal deficit in upcoming budget; it may need to reduce capital expenditure next year. This will take some steam off robust investment growth," the Crisil team noted.

Vistara-AI may merge by mid-2025: Kannan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Vistara hopes to receive various regulatory clearances for merger with parent Air India (AI) in the first half of 2024, and then, integrate its operations by mid-2025, Vistara CEO Vinod Kannan said on Monday.

The regulatory clearances include a nod from the Competition Commission of India, the National Law Company Tribunal, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Department of Industry and Internal Trade.

"Having a fleet of 67 or 70 aircraft, it means that we can't do everything overnight, we need to transition this slowly," he said on flight operations of Vistara synchronising with AI.

Vistara, with a fleet of 67 aircraft, will add three more in 2024, including a Boeing 787 Dreamliner. The route-expansion strategy in the coming months will largely be focused on international destinations, including additional flights to Singapore from February and more frequencies from Mumbai to London.

DLF sells 1,113 luxury flats worth ₹7,200 cr. within 72 hours

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

DLF Ltd. has reported selling 1,113 luxury apartments worth more than ₹7,200 crore within 72 hours of the pre-launch phase of its latest luxury residential development, DLF Privana South in Gurugram.

While the developer has collected ₹50 lakh per booking as against the normal practice of ₹10 lakh in the region, the full amount of ₹7,200 crore will be realised at the end of the project which is scheduled to be completed in 5 years.

Each 4-room apartment is priced at ₹6.7 crore and 25% of the bookings have been received from NRIs.

Aakash Ohri

Aakash Ohri, Jt. Managing Director and Chief Business Officer, DLF Home Developers Ltd., said, "The swift pre-launch sellout serves as a testament to the increasing demand for high-rise luxury developments by DLF, delivering the highly aspirational DLF lifestyle."

SPIC mulls ₹1,900-cr. expansion plan, firm to raise more debt

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Southern Petrochemical Industries Corp. Ltd. (SPIC) has drawn up a ₹1,900 crore expansion plan. It is also scouting for mergers and acquisitions and plans to raise more debt, said a top company official.

"In CY24, we are planning to expand through brownfield projects. The investments may not be huge, but are sustainable and realistic," said Chairman Ashwin C. Muthiah in an interview.

He said SPIC's expansion plans include a ₹970 crore revamp of its existing urea plant.

Ashwin Muthiah

"Right now, SPIC group is more equity driven than debt. As we grow, we need more debt funds. We are planning to raise short and long-term debt," Mr. Muthiah said.

Regarding mergers and acquisitions, Mr. Muthiah said SPIC is open to acquiring petrochemical firms in India or abroad.

Automobile retail sales rose 11% annually in 2023: FADA

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Aided by robust demand, automobile retail sales in India rose by 11% last year as compared with 2022, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said on Monday.

The overall domestic automobile retail sales stood at 2,38,67,990 units in the 2023 calendar year as compared with 2,14,92,324 units in 2022.

Passenger vehicle sales stood at 38,60,268 units last year, up 11% from 34,89,953 units in 2022.

Similarly, two-wheeler retails grew by 9% last year to 1,70,61,112 units from 1,55,88,352 units in the January-December period of 2022.

Three-wheeler retail sales jumped 58% to 10,80,653 units last year from 6,81,812 units in 2022.

Commercial vehicle retails saw an increase of 8% at 9,94,330 units from 9,18,284 units in 2022.

Tractor retails rose to 8,71,627 units, registering a jump of 7% from 8,13,923 units sold in the preceding year.

In December 2023, the overall domestic automobile retail sales increased by 21% to 19,90,915 units as compared with 16,43,514 units in December 2022.

Passenger vehicle retails rose to 2,93,005 units last month, 3% higher than that of December 2022 when the figure stood at 2,85,429 units.

Two-wheeler sales rose by 28% to 14,49,693 units in December 2023 as compared with 11,36,465 units sold in the year-earlier period.

India's fuel demand hits seven-month high in Dec.

Reuters

India's fuel consumption rose to a seven-month high in December to about 20.054 million metric tons (mmt), data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell of the oil ministry showed. Total consumption, a proxy for oil demand, in December rose by 6.2% from 18.89 million tons (mt) in November, data showed.

It was up around 2.6% compared with the same period a year earlier.

Sales of diesel rose by 0.9% to 7.6 (mt), while petrol sales dipped to 4.5% MoM in Dec. to 2.99 (mt).

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer(Ele), South Zone, Jayanagar, BBMP, Bangalore - 560 011.

No. BBMP/EE/ELE/South/TEND/06/2023-24 Date:08.01.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (Single Cover System)

The Executive Engineer (Elec), South Zone invites tenders from eligible contractors for the following works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
	Reserved for Others		
1	Annual maintenance contract of electrical crematorium including replacement of furnace coils, refractory materials and periodical cleaning of scrubbers using necessary spare parts, tools and skilled man power etc, complete at Banashankari Electric Crematorium in Devagiri Temple Ward at Ward No 190 *(Class II & Above Contractors).*	16.00	40,000/-
2	Annual Electrical Maintenance of Electrical Installation in Kittur Rani Chennamma Play Ground in Byrasandra Ward No 182 *(Class IV & Above Contractors).*	3.00	7,500/-
3	Annual Electrical Maintenance of Musical Fountain at Hari Hara Gudda Park Gavigangadhareshwara Ward No 196 *(Class IV & Above Contractors).*	2.00	5,000/-
4	Annual Electrical maintenance of Kalasipalya Vegetable market in Dharmaraya Swamy temple ward no. 160 *(Class IV & Above Contractors).*	4.00	10,000/-
5	Annual Electrical maintenance of Buildings coming under Jayanagara Assembly constituency in Ward Nos. 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187 *(Class II & Above Contractors).*	15.00	37,500/-
6	Annual Electrical Maintenance contract of BBMP South Zonal Complex Building 2nd Block, Jayanagar in ward no 163 *(Class II & Above Contractors).*	16.00	40,000/-
7	Annual Maintenance of all telephones, Broad Band systems and other peripherals in BBMP South Zonal Complex Building, 2nd Block, Jayanagar in Ward No 163 *(Class IV & Above Contractors).*	2.00	5,000/-
8	Annual Maintenance of all Telephones and broad Band Systems in Jayanagara shopping complex 4th block in Byrasandra Ward No 182 *(Class IV & Above Contractors).*	1.50	3,750/-
9	Annual Electrical Maintenance of all BBMP Buildings coming under BTM Layout Constituency in Ward Nos 173, 174, 175, 176, 177,178, 179, 180, 181 *(Class IV & Above Contractors).*	5.00	12,500/-
10	Annual Electrical maintenance of NR colony Hospital and BBMP complex Building in Doddaganpathi Ward No 198 *(Class IV & Above Contractors).*	5.00	12,500/-
11	Annual Electrical Maintenance of Buildings at Padmanabhanagara Assembly Constituency in ward 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195 *(Class IV & Above Contractors).*	5.00	12,500/-
12	Annual Electrical Maintenance of BBMP Buildings coming under Vijayanagara Constituency in Ward Nos 144, 145, 146,147, 148 149, 150, 151, 152 *(Class IV & Above Contractors).*	3.00	7,500/-
	Reserved for SC Category		
13	Annual maintenance contract of Electrical crematorium including replacement of furnace coils, refractory materials and periodical cleaning of scrubbers using necessary spare parts, tools and skilled man power etc, complete at Wilson Garden Electric Crematorium in Hombegowdanagera Ward No 164. *(Class II & Above Contractors).*	20.00	25,000/-
14	Annual Electrical maintenance of Buildings coming under Basavanagudi assembly constituency in ward no 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201*(Class IV & Above Contractors).*	3.00	3,750/-
15	Annual Electrical maintenance of all BBMP Buildings coming under Chickpet Constituency in ward Nos 160, 161, 162,163, 164, 165 *(Class IV & Above Contractors).*	6.00	7,500/-
	Reserved for ST Category		
16	Annual Electrical Maintenance contract of Hosakerehalli Hospital in Hosakerehalli Ward No 195 *(Class IV & Above Contractors).*	2.00	2,500/-
17	Annual Electrical Maintenance of Siddaiah Road Refferal hospital in Dharmaraya Swamy temple ward no.160 *(Class IV & Above Contractors).*	4.00	5,000/-

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in : From 09.01.2024 onwards. 2)** Last Date for online submission of bids : **16.01.2024 upto 4:00 PM. 3)** Opening of financial Bids:**17.01.2024 at 4:00 PM.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned or contact e-procurement helpdesk : 080-25501216, 25501227.

Sd/- Executive Engineer(Ele), South Zone

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	71,355	-0.93
US Dollar	83.14	0.01
Gold	63,200	-0.39
Brent oil	75.84	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2963.50	-43.10
Adani Ports	1168.85	14.60
Apollo Hosp	5682.00	-72.25
Asian Paints	3298.40	-57.15
Axis Bank	1122.00	-14.95
Bajaj Auto	6983.85	5.35
Bajaj Finserv	1696.35	-13.15
Bajaj Finance	7736.00	24.85
Bharti Airtel	1049.05	2.45
BPCL	455.00	1.90
Britannia Ind	5177.35	-95.00
Cipla	1271.75	-15.15
Coal India	380.40	-3.85
Divis Lab	3934.15	-80.60
Dr Reddys Lab	5761.35	-74.30
Eicher Motors	3884.25	7.20
Grasim Ind	2067.70	-11.80
HCL Tech	1447.90	15.10
HDFC Bank	1663.45	-18.75
HDFC Life	645.85	-0.90
Hero MotoCorp	4009.50	19.20
Hindalco	577.65	-9.35
Hind Unilever	2578.25	-41.80
ICICI Bank	982.00	-11.70
IndusInd Bank	1627.10	-16.10
Infosys	1522.80	-9.75
ITC	465.50	-8.45
JSW Steel	821.95	-7.45
Kotak Bank	1826.10	-21.50
L&T	3501.10	-20.80
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5845.60	-102.05
M&M	1616.15	-25.85
Maruti Suzuki	9946.70	-70.30
NestleIndia	2619.30	-47.10
NTPC	316.45	1.50
ONGC	217.95	1.50
PowerGrid Corp	242.35	1.10
Reliance Ind	2587.35	-20.35
SBI Life	1421.05	-33.10
State Bank	627.00	-14.95
Sun Pharma	1305.30	5.10
TataConsumerProduct	1104.95	-18.00
Tata Motors	789.10	-1.85
Tata Steel	132.00	-1.65
TCS	3678.30	-59.60
Tech Mahindra	1228.95	-19.35
Titan	3706.05	-6.50
UltraTech Cement	9934.50	-81.55
UPL	560.90	-20.35
Wipro	450.35	-6.25

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 08

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.94	83.26
Euro	90.74	91.10
British Pound	105.36	105.77
Japanese Yen (100)	57.46	57.68
Chinese Yuan	11.59	11.63
Swiss Franc	97.50	97.89
Singapore Dollar	62.33	62.58
Canadian Dollar	61.98	62.22
Malaysian Ringitt	17.83	17.91
Australian Dollar	55.53	55.75

Source:Indian Bank

PUBLIC NOTICE

The attention of the General Public is hereby drawn that the schedule properties Item No.1 & 2 below mentioned are the subject matters of Preliminary Decree passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in RFA No.1423/2005 decreeing the suit of the Plaintiffs in O.S. No.15154/2001 on the file of the learned Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge. Mayohall Unit, Bangalore and the said Preliminary Decree for partition and possession has been sued out by our clients in FDP No.25030/2014 which is pending enquiry on the file of learned Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayohall Unit, Bangalore and in that Final Decree Proceedings the LRs of deceased Defendants viz., Mohammad Sabdar and Mohammad Zakir and the persons allegedly claiming under or through them are at their whims and fancy putting up constructions and demolishing the existing constructions and also indulging in alienating and / or encumbering the schedule Item Nos.1 & 2, thereby creating further third party interest besides the aforesaid persons are also digging the soil of schedule item Nos.1 & 2 properties and unauthorisdly forming roads and also dumping the debris and heaps of soil etc., which acts of them are illegal unauthorised and arbitrary and as such if anyone are more of the general public deal with the aforesaid property with the aforesaid persons, who have no right, title and interest of whatsoever nature are doing so at their own risks and costs and the final outcome of the Final Orders passed in FDP No.25030/2014 is binding on such persons.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of the Garden land bearing Sy. No.87/6 measuring 2 acres 28 guntas that situates at Valagerahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk with the following boundaries:- **East by** : The Kengeri Tank and the Garden land of hale Tigalara Inaiah, **West by :** The property of Seegahalli Sanjeevappa and the land of Sampige Muniswamappa, **North by :** The land of Sri Yallappa and Rajanna both Son's of Hotte Chikkannappa. **South by :** The Inamthi land of Kengeri Shanabhogaru and also the lands of Kaverappa etc.

Item No.2: All that piece and parcel of house property bearing Khata No.164 and Kanesumari No.305 that situates at Kengeri Village within the jurisdiction of Kengeri Gram Panchayath comprising black tailed roof house and the yard pertaining to the same with the following boundaries :- **East by :** Goverment Road, **West by :** Railway Boundary, **North by :** The vacant site of Sabjan Sab and **South by :** The house of Beeram Sab.

Vynika Chikkanagoundar
Advocate
M/s. L.S. Chikkanagoudar
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DONE DEAL

How a chopper ride sealed Beckenbauer's Cosmos stint

THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Franz Beckenbauer said the decisive step in luring him to New York Cosmos to play alongside Pele was the helicopter ride to the Giants stadium. "That was then the most modern stadium in the world, with VIP boxes. We didn't have that in Europe. As we flew over the stadium, I told them, 'Fine, stop it, I am coming.'"

SMOOTH TALK

Beckenbauer was confidence personified in World Cups

GETTY IMAGES

After Beckenbauer captained West Germany to victory over Johan Cruyff's Netherlands in the 1974 World Cup final, the German remarked "Johan was a better player, but I won the World Cup." When, as a manager, he helmed West Germany to victory in 1990, he had told the team to "get out there, have fun, play football."

GLOBE TROTTER

Childhood interest spurred Beckenbauer's wanderlust

GETTY IMAGES

Beckenbauer, who went to all the countries that had qualified for the 2006 WC, got the urge to travel as a child by collecting pictures. "There were photos from Africa, America. It got me interested... but I never thought I'd experience it personally. There are many who travel but see nothing because they are busy. I was always curious."

LONG WAIT

A German prophecy that struggled to come true for 24 years

GETTY IMAGES

West Germany beat Argentina 1-0 in the 1990 World Cup final with the goal coming through Andreas Brehme, a defender Beckenbauer had once told to "play the piano, play the flute but not football." He also claimed Germany would be unbeatable for years to come, but the nation took 24 years to win its next World crown.

Der Kaiser Franz Beckenbauer, 78, passes away

The much-decorated German great, one of the three players along with Brazil's Zagallo and France's Deschamps to win the World Cup as player and coach, also involved himself in administration

Multi-faceted genius: The iconic Beckenbauer not only excelled as a player but also as a coach who had a knack for leading his teams to greatness. GETTY IMAGES/AP/AFP

FOOTBALL

Reuters
BERLIN

Franz Beckenbauer, one of Germany's greatest football players, who captained the team to World Cup victory in 1974 then won the tournament again as manager in 1990, has died at the age of 78, German news agency DPA reported on Monday.

"It is with deep sadness that we announce that my husband and our father, Franz Beckenbauer, passed away peacefully in his sleep yesterday, Sunday, surrounded by his family," the family said in a statement to DPA.

"We ask that we be allowed grieve in peace and spared any questions." The statement did not provide a cause of death.

Beckenbauer was a classy, dominant presence on the pitch for West Germany and Bayern Munich in the 1960s and 70s, using the calmness on the ball and effortless distribution that marked his midfield performances to virtually invent the central defensive sweeper role where he found most success.

He collected 103 caps for West Germany, winning the 1972 European championship and then the World Cup on home soil having lost in the final to England in 1966.

His Bayern Munich team was the best club side in the world during the mid-1970s, winning three successive European Cups and three successive Bundesliga titles, and Beckenbauer himself was twice named European footballer of the year.

As national team manager his West Germany team lost in the 1986 World Cup final to Argentina but triumphed four years later in Italy as a combined German team.

Beckenbauer, nicknamed *Der Kaiser* (The emperor), was one of three men to have won the World Cup as player and coach and his death comes three days after the first to do it – Brazil's Mario Zagallo. France's Didier Deschamps is the other.

After coaching, Beckenbauer moved into football administration but in 2016 he was fined by FIFA's ethics committee for failing to co-operate with an inquiry into corruption over the awarding of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

In recent years. Beckenbauer had struggled with health problems.

FANTASTIC FRANZ

Position: Libero
Playing career: Clubs: Bayern Munich (1964-1977), New York Cosmos (1977-1980), Hamburg (1980-1982), New York Cosmos (1982-1983)
Club honours: European Cup: 1974, 1975, 1976; **Intercontinental Cup:** 1976; **European Cup Winners' Cup:** 1967; **Bundesliga:** 1969, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1982; **German Cup:** 1966, 1967, 1969, 1971; **North American Soccer League:** 1977, 1978, 1980
Internationals: 103 caps for West Germany (50 as captain) with 14 goals.
International honours: World Cup winner: 1974; **World Cup runner-up:** 1966; **European champion:** 1972
Managerial career: Marseille (1990-1991), Bayern Munich (1993-1994, 1996).
Club honours: UEFA Cup: 1996; **Bundesliga:** 1994;
National (1984 to 1990): 66 matches as coach of West Germany.
International honours: World Cup winner: 1990; **World Cup runner-up:** 1986.
Individual awards: Ballon d'or: 1972, 1976; **German Player of the Year:** 1966, 1968, 1974, 1976; **FIFA Order of Merit:** 1984; **Commanders' Cross of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany:** 2006; **Laureus Lifetime Achievement Award:** 2007; **FIFA Presidential Award:** 2012.

Milestone moments in a glittering career

Agence France-Presse
MUNICH

Franz Beckenbauer left his mark on world football as a player, coach and administrator. A look at six key dates/year in his illustrious career:

1970: Germany faced Italy in the World Cup semifinals in Mexico City. Shortly after the hour, in an attempt to force a penalty (he only won a free kick), Beckenbauer dived into the Italian box but landed badly on his right arm and dislocated it. Coach Helmut Schoen had already made his two permitted changes, and Beckenbauer carried on. After Karl-Heinz Schnellinger's added-time equaliser, Beckenbauer played on through extra-time, his arm in a sling, though Germany lost 3-4.

1972: USSR goalkeeper Lev Yashin (in 1963) had been the only non-attacker to win the *Ballon d'Or* since its creation in 1956. Beckenbauer, a libero, changed that when he won in 1972 after leading West Germany to the European title in Belgium in the summer. Four years later, he won the award again.

1974: Born in Giesing, a working-class district south of Munich, Beckenbauer first played in the city's Olympic Stadium (1972 Games) in the 1974 World Cup. Despite a loss to East Germany in the group stage, West Germany reached the final and won 2-1 against Johan Cruyff's Netherlands. Beckenbauer lifted the trophy in front of 78,200 spectators.

1976: With Bayern Munich, he completed a hat-trick of European Champions Cup titles in 1976 when the side beat Saint-Etienne 1-0 in Glasgow. With Bayern, Beckenbauer added a 13th and final trophy as a player, the Intercontinental Cup, in November 1976.

1990: After Germany bowed out of Euro 1984 in the first round, Beckenbauer, who had said he did not want to coach, gave in to the call and took up the job. He led Germany to the final of the 1986 World Cup where it lost to Diego Maradona's Argentina (2-3). Four years later, in Rome, Germany exacted revenge , winning the final against Argentina 1-0.

2006: Beckenbauer headed Germany's bid for the 2006 World Cup, although its 12-11 win over South Africa in the vote attracted the attention of Swiss courts, clouding his reputation. During the event, Beckenbauer was the star, flying by helicopter from stadium to stadium, attending 48 of the 64 matches.

SNAPSHOTS

Klaasen retires from Test cricket

PRETORIA: South Africa's wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen announced his retirement from red-ball cricket on Monday. He played four Tests, scoring 104 runs.

Liyanage is SL's hero

COLOMBO: Janith Liyanage's 95 guided Sri Lanka to a two-wicket win over Zimbabwe in the second ODI on Monday.
The scores: Zimbabwe 208 in 44.4 overs (C. Ervine 82, M. Theekshana 4/31) lost to Sri Lanka 211/8 in 49 overs (J. Liyanage 95, Richard Ngarava 5/32).

Bulls pip Pirates

MUMBAI: Bengaluru Bulls pulled off a thrilling 34-33 victory over Patna Pirates in a Pro Kabaddi League match on Monday. Dabang Delhi edged out U Mumba 40-34 in another match.

Woods ends long partnership with Nike

NEW YORK: Tiger Woods announced on Monday that he was ending the 27-year partnership with Nike.

Women In Blue keen to end gruelling season on a high

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
NAVI MUMBAI

Harmanpreeet Kaur's India will hope to sign off a gruelling five weeks of international cricket with a win in the third and final T20I against Australia on Tuesday.

The last game of the home international season – India women's 11th across formats in 35 days – will be critical on multiple counts. The deciding match offers yet another opportunity for India to clinch a rare T20I series against Australia. The game also offers the host a chance to end a largely fruitful season against the two most challenging outfits (England and Australia) on a high.

According to the Future Tours Programme (FTP), India's next assignment is the T20 World Cup in September. However, the BCCI is planning to organise at least one home series before that.

A shot at redemption: Harmanpreet, who has struggled with the bat, will hope to turn things around. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Australia, after being annihilated in the series-opener, made a strong comeback to keep the series alive. It will hope that captain Alyssa Healy calls it right at the toss for the second time in succession. After all, 'win the toss, bowl first and win the game' has been the template as witnessed in the first two games. The swing early on before the moisture sets in has resulted in the pacers making a big impact in the first innings.

The teams (from):
India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Yastika Bhatia, Richa Ghosh, Amanjot Kaur, Shreyanka Patil, Mannat Kashyap, Saika Ishaque, Renuka Singh, Titas Sadhu, Pooja Vastrakar, Kanika Ahuja, and Minnu Mani.
Australia: Alyssa Healy (Capt.), Darcie Brown, Heather Graham, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Grace Harris, Jess Jonassen, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Tahlia McGrath, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, and Georgia Wareham.
Match starts at 7 p.m.

Rohit and Kohli's return reveals hope and apprehension about the future

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
CHENNAI

Cricket teams, especially their core units, have a tenure linked to World Cups. The modern era, however, queered the pitch by featuring two World Cups, the conventional ODI-based one and the T20 variant. Instead of the once-in-four-years sporting extravaganza, every alternate year now throws up a global cricketing event.

It has also added to the selector's woes. Do you place Tests on one side and club ODIs and T20Is together? Or do you get granular even within the ODI and T20 arc and finesse teams accordingly?

The return of skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli to the Indian T20 ranks seems to reveal both hope and some apprehension about the road ahead.

The coming months constitute a path that leads to the ICC T20 World Cup in the West Indies and the United States. These three T20Is involving Afghanistan and the Indian Premier League, will be seen as steps leading towards the ICC event.

Backing experience: Kohli and Rohit are the top two run-getters for the Men in Blue in T20Is. GETTY IMAGES

Rohit, at 36, and Kohli, at 35, aren't the young tyros they were while breaking into the national side.

They have been part of ICC title winning Indian units. Rohit was a member of the 2007 team that won the inaugural World T20 while Kohli was part of the 2011 World Cup winning side.

Equally, they were together when India won the Champions Trophy in 2013. India has not won an ICC title since those glory days when M.S. Dhoni was at the helm.

The latest heart-break was the loss against Australia in the World Cup final at Ahmedabad on November 19. Through this championship, Rohit revealed an explosive intent that offered a cushion for the likes of Kohli to prosper. Still, it was presumed that when it came to the T20Is, the duo had already made way for the younger crop.

It was a signal that was evident through the last year as Rohit and Kohli played a T20I together back on November 10, 2022, incidentally the lost T20 World Cup semifinal against England at Adelaide. Hardik Pandya was seen as the natural skipper for T20Is.

Yet, the all-rounder's injury and Suryakumar Yadav's latest fitness worry, forced the selectors to prefer assurance and certainty that is obvious in Rohit and Kohli.

Perhaps, the two may get another tilt at a World Cup title under the American and Caribbean skies too and gain a sense of closure for the tears they shed unabashedly in Ahmedabad.

Karnataka begins its campaign with a victory

The only grouse the home side will have is the failure to grab the bonus point that comes with an innings victory or a 10-wicket triumph

RANJI TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
HUBBALLI

Striking gold: Left-arm tweakers Rohit and Shubhang set up Karnataka's win. KIRAN BAKALE

Karnataka ensured a positive start to its 2023-24 Ranji Trophy campaign by registering a seven-wicket win over Punjab at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium here on Monday.

The only grouse the home side will have is the failure to grab the bonus point that comes with an innings victory or a 10-wicket triumph, for Karnataka first let go of a humongous 362-run first-innings lead and then couldn't chase down the 52-run target with all wickets intact.

Skipper Mayank Agarwal bagged a pair, Nikin Jose fell cheaply for a second straight occasion and first-innings centurion Devdutt Padikkal – the player of the match – couldn't bat as he had spent all morning off the field owing to a stomach bug. But R. Samarth (21, 38b, 4x4) and Sharath Srinivas (21 n.o., 47b, 1x4, 1x6) calmed the nerves and carried the team home.

The victory, though, was set-up by the bowlers in the morning. Speedsters V. Vyshak, V. Koushik and Vidwath Kaverappa softened Punjab's overnight batters Mandeep Singh and Nehal Wadhera with some incisive spells before the left-arm tweakers Rohit Kumar and Shubhang Hegde struck gold.

Debutant and Hubballi lad Rohit, who had struggled on day three with his lengths, finally landed one in the right spot to rearrange captain Mandeep's stumps. At the other end, Wadhera confidently walked into a shot but ended up spooning a return catch to Shubhang.

Wicket-keeper Gitansh Khera (43, 81b, 6x4) and Mayank Markande (36, 67b, 6x4) combined for a 61-run partnership for the seventh wicket, with the former executing some fine sweep shots.

An overdose of the stroke, however, led to his downfall as Rohit slid one through to castle him and be Karnataka's break-through man again. India pacer Arshdeep Singh swung freely to smash three fours and three sixes (36, 34b, 3x4, 3x6), and forced Karnataka to bat again. But Mayank Agarwal had men stationed in the deep for false hits and it was not long before Arshdeep holed out at deep mid-wicket.

No. 11 Baltej Singh played a cameo (22, 10b, 2x4, 2x6), but none could deny Karnataka the six points.

The scores:
Punjab — 1st innings: 152.
Karnataka — 1st innings: 514 for eight decl.
Punjab — 2nd innings: Abhishek Sharma b Samarth 91, Prabhsimran Singh b Kaverappa 100, Naman Dhir c Rohit b Shubhang 20, Mandeep Singh b Rohit Kumar 27, Nehal Wadhera c & b Shubhang 26, Gitansh Khera b Rohit Kumar 43, Prerit Dutta lbw b Shubhang 0, Mayank Markande st. Sharath b Rohit 36, Siddharth Kaul c Sharath b Kaverappa 0, Arshdeep Singh c Mayank b Vyshak 36, Baltej Singh (not out) 22; Extras (b-1, lb-8, nb-3): 12; Total (in 114.4 overs): 413.
Fall of wickets: 1-192, 2-192, 3-220, 4-268, 5-273, 6-285, 7-346, 8-347, 9-389.
Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 24-3-59-2, Koushik 20-6-45-0, Vyshak 21-3-93-1, Rohit 22.4-3-101-3, Shubhang 18-1-89-3, Samarth 9-3-17-1.
Karnataka — 2nd innings: R. Samarth c Prabhsimran b Dutta 21, Mayank Agarwal c Dhir b Baltej 0, Nikin Jose c Wadhera b Dutta 0, S. Sharath (not out) 21, Manish Pandey (not out) 10; Total (for three wkts. in 17 overs): 52.
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-9, 3-31.
Punjab bowling: Arshdeep 1-0-8-0, Baltej 4-2-12-1, Dutta 7-3-10-2, Abhishek 1-0-2-0, Dhir 4-0-20-0.
Karnataka won by seven wickets.
Points: Karnataka 6, Punjab 0.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES — ROUND 1, FINAL DAY

Blitzkrieg: Riyan Parag scored the second fastest century in Ranji history (56 balls) during his 87-ball 155 against Chhattisgarh, only behind Rishabh Pant's 48-ball effort in 2016. JIO CINEMA

Elite: Group-A: At Rajkot: Jharkhand 142 & 306/3 in 109 overs (Kumar Deobrat 91, Nazim Siddiquie 45, Kumar Suraj 113 n.o., Virat Singh 51 n.o.) drew with Saurashtra 578/4 decl. **Points: Jharkhand 1, Saurashtra 3**.
At Rohtak: Haryana 100/6 in 42 overs drew with Rajasthan. **Haryana 1, Rajasthan 1**.
At Nagpur: Services 241 & 155 lost to Vidarbha 219 & 178/3 in 56.3 overs (Sanjay Raghunath 84 n.o.). **Vidarbha 6, Services 0**.
Group-B: At Visakhapatnam: Bengal 409 & 82/1 in 25 overs drew with Andhra 445 in 165.4 overs (Prasanth Kumar 41, Hanuma Vihari 51, Ricky Bhui 175, Shoaib Md. Khan 56). **Andhra 3, Bengal 1**.
At Patna: Mumbai 251 bt Bihar 100 & 100 in 35.1 overs (Sharman Nigrodh 40, Shivam Dube 4/10). **Mumbai 7, Bihar 0**.
At Raipur: Chhattisgarh 327 & 87/0 in 20 overs (Rishabh Tiwari 48 n.o.) bt Assam 159 & 254 in 53.2 overs (Riyan Parag 155). **Chhattisgarh 7, Assam 0**.
At Alappuzha: Uttar Pradesh 302 & 323/3 decl. in 92.5 overs (Aryan Juyal 115, Samarth Singh 43, Priyam Garg 106) drew with Kerala 243 & 72/2 in 24 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 42). **UP 3, Kerala 1**.
Group-C: At Agartala: Tripura 484 & 151/5 decl. bt Goa 135 & 263 in 97.2 overs (Krishnamurthy Siddharth 151 n.o.). **Tripura 6, Goa 0**.
At Hubballi: Punjab 152 & 413 in 114.4 overs (Abhishek Sharma 91, Prabhsimran Singh 100, Gitansh Khera 43) lost to Karnataka 514/8 decl. & 52/3 in 17 overs. **Karnataka 6, Punjab 0**.
At Valsad: Gujarat 236 & 312 bt Tamil Nadu 250 & 187 in 81.2 overs (Sai Kishore 48, Arzan Nagwaswalla 4/34). **Gujarat 6, TN 0**.
At Chandigarh: Chandigarh 96 & 90/5 in 38 overs (Kunal Mahajan 43 n.o.) drew with Railways 313/4 decl. in 83 overs (Shivam Chaudhary 53, Vivek Singh 114, Mohammad Saif 58 n.o.). **Chandigarh 1, Railways 3**.
Group-D: At Vadodara: Baroda 351 & 258/4 decl. bt Odisha 178 & 284 in 101.5 overs (Shantanu Mishra 78, Anurag Sarangi 56, Sandeep Pattnaik 51, Suryakant Pradhan 46, Mahesh Pithiya 5/61). **Baroda 6, Odisha 0**.
At Jammu: Jammu & Kashmir 100 drew with Himachal Pradesh 120/1 decl. in 30 overs (Prashant Chopra 48 n.o., Ankit Kalsi 40 n.o.). **J&K 1, HP 3**.
At Dehradun: Madhya Pradesh 323 & 243/3 decl. drew with Uttarakhand 192 & 266/8 in 95 overs (Kunal Chandela 50, Priyanshu Khanduri 62, Swapnil Singh 40, Aditya Tare 51, Kumar Kartikeya 4/73). **MP 3, Uttarakhand 1**.
At Delhi: Delhi 148 & 145 in 46.4 overs (Abin Mathew 5/39) lost to Puducherry 244 & 51/1 in 13.4 overs. **Puducherry 6, Delhi 0**.
Plate: At Nadiad: Sikkim 442/9 decl. & 170/6 in 49.3 overs (Ashish Thapa 60 n.o., Sumit Singh 76, Mohit Jangra 4/83) bt Mizoram 214 & 397 in 87.4 overs (Agni Chopra 92, Mohit Jangra 126, K.C. Cariappa 42, Sumit Singh 4/111). **Sikkim 6, Mizoram 0.**

INBRIEF

Quick Guns go top of UKK with big win over Warriors

Chennai Quick Guns ascended to the top of the Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2 table with a 42-19 victory over Rajasthan Warriors in Cuttack on Monday. The heavy defeat means that Warriors have ended the campaign without a single victory. Earlier, Gujarat Giants earned an easy 42-22 win over Telugu Yoddhas.

Himmat replaces Dhull as Delhi skipper

Hours after Delhi's crushing nine-wicket loss to Pondicherry, Yash Dhull stands sacked as the skipper. Himmat Singh replaced the 21-year-old at the helm. The selectors want Dhull to concentrate on his batting. Dhull was appointed captain only for the first two matches.

Anahat loses in girls' U-17 final of the British junior Open

Egypt's Nadien Elhammamy, the second seed, defeated India's Anahat Singh, the top seed, 7-11, 13-11, 12-10, 5-11, 11-9 in the girls' under-17 final of the British junior Open squash championships in Birmingham on Sunday.

Juventus wins 2-1 against 10-man Salernitana

A stoppage-time header by Dusan Vlahovic helped Juventus come from behind to grab a 2-1 win at Salernitana in Serie A on Sunday after the host was reduced to 10 men.

The results: Roma 1 (Dybala 39-pen) drew with Atalanta 1 (Koopmeiners 8); Salernitana 1 (Maggiore 39) lost to Juventus 2 (Iling-Junior 65, Vlahovic 90+1); Torino 3 (Sanabria 43, Vlasic 52, Buongiorno 66) bt Napoli 0; Udinese 1 (Walace, 59) lost to Lazio 2 (Pellegrini 12, Vecino 76).

LIVE TELECAST

India Women vs Australia Women: 3rd T20I, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7 p.m.
Ultimate Kho-Kho: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 & 8.45 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Karnataka routs Tamil Nadu to enter the Cooch Behar final

BELAGAVI: Karnataka defeated Tamil Nadu by nine wickets in the BCCI men's under-19 Cooch Behar Trophy semifinal.
The scores:
Tamil Nadu 126 in 54.5 overs (Akshay Sarangdhar 29, Samit Dravid 3/17, Agastya Raju 4/40) and 302 in 70.5 overs (S. Shrenik 73, Madhava Prasad 118, Andre Siddharth 33, Dheeraj Gowda 4/94, Agastya Raju 4/52) lost to Karnataka 418 in 129.3 overs (S.U. Karthik 75, Harshil Dharmani 70, K.P. Karthikeya 39, Hardik Raj 100, Yuvraj Arora 51, B. Sachin 3/100, P. Vignesh 4/121) and 12/1 in 1.1 overs.

Tripura women get the better of Karnataka

Tripura took out Karnataka by 37 runs in the BCCI senior women's one-day trophy match at Bhubaneshwar.
The scores:
Tripura 184/7 in 50 overs (Mouchaity Debnath 46, Indra Rani 73, Heena Hotchandani 32) bt Karnataka 147 in 39.2 overs (Vrinda Dinesh 55, C. Prathyusha 33, A.B. Das 5/22).

Aneesh and Aneeshwar shine for Karnataka againts Hyderabad

MYSURU: K.V. Aneesh (89 n.o, 148b, 7x4) and Aneeshwar Gautam (70 n.o, 140b, 7x4, 2x6) and their unbroken fourth-wicket partnership of 130 helped Karnataka finish the second day at 182/3 in 56 overs, in reply to Hyderabad's 294 in the Col. C.K. Nayudu Trophy at the S.D.N.R. Wadayar grounds on Monday.
Ilyaan Santhani top-scored for Hyderabad (120, 167b, 15x4, 4x6) while Karntaka medium- pacer L. Manavanth Kumar claimed five for 67.
The scores:
Hyderabad 294 in 107.3 overs (Ilyaan Santhani 120, Rakshaan 44, Nitish Reddy 38, L. Manvanth Kumar 5/67) vs. Karnataka 182/3 in 56 overs (K.V. Aneesh 89 n.o., Aneeshwar Gautam 70 n.o.).

Abhijit's efforts in vain

BENGALURU: S. Abhijit's 102 went in vain as Palar SC lost to Jayanagar United Cricketers by five wickets in the semifinals of the KSCA Group I, Division IV league tournament here.
The scores: Semifinals:
Vijaya CC 222 in 47.2 overs (Aaron Joseph 28, D. Suraj 57, Sanjay Kumar 63, N. Bharath 3/45) lost to Neptune CC 225/5 in 45.1 overs (Rayan Ahmed 26, N. Bharath 82, Suneel Raju 28, Manjesh Reddy 35 n.o.).
Palar SC 197 in 49.2 overs (S. Abhijit 102, Gowhar Nabi 3/28, Sunil Kaushik 3/33) lost to Jayanagar United Cricketers 199/5 in 48.1 overs (Babu Thangavelu 26, Vinod Ravi 34, Sunil Kaushik 36 n.o., Ajendra Suresh 39 n.o.).

Easy for BCYA-A

BCYA-A whipped Coorg Blues Hockey Club 6-1 in the KSHA-BHA A division hockey tournament.
The results: BCYA-A 6 (Neeraj Kumar 1, Ravi Teja 4, 25, Karthik 38, Shiva 46, Raju 57) bt Coorg Blues HC 1 (Arun 33).

Faisal and Shivank make main draw

Faisal Qamar and Shivank Bhatnagar secured victories in the final qualifying round to make it to the main draw of the PET ITF Mandya Open tennis tournament at the PET Stadium at Mandya on Monday.
Qamar defeated Jiayang Dong of Australia 6-4, 4-6, 10-5, while Bhatnagar took out Aaron Cohen of Israel 7-5, 3-6, 10-6.
Qamar next takes on Kris Van Wyk of South Africa, who has been giving the top billing for the main round. Sasikumar Mukund, the fourth seed, carries Indian hopes.

Proud to have received my first Ranji cap at my home ground: Rohit

N. Sudarshan
HUBBALLI

Karnataka left-arm spinner Rohit Kumar termed his First Class debut against Punjab in front of his friends and family a special moment.

"It's a proud moment to have received my first Ranji cap here at my home ground," said Rohit, who started his cricket from Ranebennur (112km from Hubballi) but has all along trained here.

"I knew the conditions well and I played this match with the mindset to win it for my team," the 23-year-old added.

Meanwhile, Karnataka is set to welcome Prasidh Krishna back into the Ranji squad ahead of the next game against Gujarat in Ahmedabad starting Jan. 12.

Prasidh's return after India's two-Test series versus South Africa will come as a shot in the arm for Karnataka which will miss the services of fellow pacer Vidwath Kaverappa, who has been named in the India-A outfit that will face the visiting England Lions.

Confident
The team management is also confident that Devdutt Padikkal, who didn't take the field on day four of the Ranji opener against Punjab because of a stomach bug, will be fit for the Gujarat match.

BAI to fund 28 shuttlers

Sports Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Badminton Association of India (BAI), with support from REC, will fund the 28 talented shuttlers for international tournaments as part of the efforts to help them improve rankings and also provide much-needed foreign exposure, required to play in top-level international badminton tournaments.

The selected players have been given an option to choose three tournaments, including two Super 300 events – the Orleans Masters and Swiss Open – from a total of eight tournaments, for which BAI will extend complete financial support to each of the shuttlers.

The players (rankings in brackets):
Men's singles: Sathish Kumar Karunakaran (51), S. Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian (71), Sameer Verma (74), Chirag Sen (Senior Nationals champion), Tharun Mannepalli (Sr. Nationals runner-up);
Doubles: Hariharan Amsakarunan & R. Ruban Kumar (70) , P.S. Ravikrishna & Sankar Prasad Udayakumar (75), Suraj Goala & Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy (Senior nationals champions).
Women's singles: Aakarshi Kashyap (40), Malvika Bansod (52), Unnati Hooda (56), Tanya Hemanth (69), Tasnim Mir (73), Imad Farooqui Samiya (74), Anmol Kharb (Senior national champion), Tanvi Sharma (Senior nationals runner-up);
Doubles: K. Ashwini Bhat & Shikha Gautam (49), Rutaparna Panda & Swetaparna Panda (52), Simran Singh & Ritika Thaker (63), Priya Konjengbam & Shruti Mishra (Senior national champions);
Mixed doubles: Sathish Kumar Karunakaran & Aadya Variyath (64).

Varun, Esha win Olympic quota

Esha Singh.

Top two: Second-placed Arjun, left, and winner Varun. SPECIAL ARRANAGEMENT

Sports Bureau

Esha Singh and Varun Tomar won the Olympic quota with gold medals in the men's and women's air pistol in the Asian shooting championship in Jakarta on Monday. Indian shooting took its tally to 15 Olympic quota places for the Paris Games.

Esha won the gold with a 6.8-point margin over Kishmala Talat of Pakistan. Rhythm Sangwan won the bronze, while the third Indian, Surbhi Rao, was sixth. The trio won the team gold.

Varun defeated compatriot Arjun Singh Cheema by 2.3 points for the gold and the Olympic quota. He had earlier topped qualification with 586. Since a country can win only one Olympic quota in a championship, the second quota went to Davaakhuu Enkhtaivan of Mongolia, the bronze medallist.

The results: 10m air pistol:
Men: 1. Varun Tomar 239.6 (586); 2. Arjun Singh Cheema 237.3 (579); 3. Davaakhuu Enkhtaivan (Mgl) 217.2 (579); 20. Ujjawal Malik 575.
RPO: Sagar Dangi 578.
Team: 1. India 1740, 2. Iran 1732, 3. Korea 1732.
Women: 1. Esha Singh 243.1 (578) ; 2. Kishmala Talat (Pak) 236.3 (575); 3. Rhythm Sangwan 214.5 (579); 6. Surbhi Rao 154.0 (579). **Team:** 1. India 1736, 2. Korea 1723, 3. Indonesia 1709.

Lashka lives up to the billing in the HPSL Byerly Turk Million

HYDERABAD: Trainer L.V.R. Deshmukh's Lashka, ridden by Antony Raj S, won the HPSL Byerly Turk Million (Gr. 3), the feature event of Monday's (Jan. 8) races. The winner is owned by Col. S.B. Nair & Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey.

1. DECCAN PRINCE PLATE (DIV. II): MINECRAFT (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, Silver Act (Shivansh) 2, Rochelle (Ajay Kumar) 3 and Precious (Antony Raj) 4. 5-3/4, 1-1/2 and 1. 1m, 13.45s. ₹15 (w), 12, 11 and 10 (p). SHP: 23, THP: 30, SHW: 10 and 10, FP: 40, Q: 30, Tanala: 109. Favourite: Minecraft. Owner: Mr. B.E. Vasanth Kumar. Trainer: B. Mukesh Kumar.

2. DECCAN PRINCE PLATE (DIV. I): PONTEFRACT (Md. Ekram Alam) 1, Silver Lining (Afroz Khan) 2, Shadow Fax (Shivansh) 3 and Planet Super (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 4. 3/4, 1-1/4 and 2-1/2. 1m, 13.56s. ₹28 (w), 13, 15 and 10 (p). SHP: 44, THP: 77, SHW: 12 and 34, FP: 151, Q: 103, Tanala: 202. Favourite: Shadow Fax. Owner: Mr. Ayyadevara Srinivas, Mr. Bharat Venkat Epur & Mr. Shashidhar Kamineni. Trainer: L. D' Silva.

3. G. VASUDEV REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I): WORCESTER (Afroz Khan) 1, D Yes Boss (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 2, Burgundy Black (G. Naresh) 3 and Colt Pistol (Kuldeep Singh (Sr)) 4. Not run: Golden Gazelle. Neck, 1-1/4 and 3/4. 1m, 26.56s. ₹27 (w), 14, 23 and 19 (p). SHP: 62, THP: 48, SHW: 10 and 45, FP: 234, Q: 144, Tanala: 1,537. Favourite: Proud Mary. Owners: Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddy & Mr. Bharat Venkat Epur. Trainer: L. D' Silva.

4. AGOSTINI PLATE: TRISHUL (Antony Raj S) 1, N R I Skypower (Shivansh) 2, Caraxes (A. Imran Khan) 3 and Track Blazer (Ashad Asbar) 4. Not run: Taaliyah. 2, 2 and 5. 1m, 40.42s. ₹19 (w), 10, 10 and 10 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 28, SHW: 15 and 11, FP: 41, Q: 23, Tanala: 67. Favourite: Trishul. Owner: Col. S.B. Nair. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

5. G. VASUDEV REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I): AUSTRALIA (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Carlisle (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Terenga (Antony Raj) 3 and Fara (G. Naresh) 4. 4-1/2, Shd and 3-1/4. 1m, 24.98s. ₹37 (w), 17, 24 and 10 (p). SHP: 88, THP: 62, SHW: 14 and 65, FP: 479, Q: 423, Tanala: 1,072. Favourite: Terenga. Owner: Mr. Teja Gollapudi. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

6. KASU BRAHMANANDA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP: TRUTH (Imran Chisty) 1, Anab E Shahi (Hindu Singh) 2, Huntingdon (Mukesh Kumar) 3 and High Command (Antony Raj) 4. 1, 3 and Neck. 2m, 4.76s. ₹15 (w), 12, 13 and 17 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 40, SHW: 12 and 19, FP: 48, Q: 32, Tanala: 91. Favourite: Truth. Owners: Mr. N.V. Rohin Kumar & Mr. G. K. Keshavamurthy. Trainer: S. Sreekanth.

7. HPSL BYERLY TURK MILLION (GR. 3): LASHKA (Antony Raj S) 1, Star Of Night (Hindu Singh) 2, Star Forever (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and Glorious Power (Afroz Khan) 4. Not run: Del Aviz. 2-1/4, Neck and 2-1/2. 1m, 12.54s. ₹14 (w), 11 and 18 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 29, SHW: 10 and 22, FP: 42, Q: 31, Tanala: 94. Favourite: Lashka. Owners: Col. S.B. Nair & Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

8. MOMENT OF GLORY PLATE (DIV. II): AMPERE'S TOUCH (N.B. Kuldeep) 1, Eminency (R.S. Jodha) 2, D Battle (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 3 and American Flame (G. Naresh) 4. Neck, Nose and Head. 1m, 14.07s. ₹111 (w), 26, 10 and 16 (p). SHP: 47, THP: 60, SHW: 34 and 16, FP: 915, Q: 327, Tanala: 4,479. Favourite: American Flame. Owner: N. Shyam Sunder. Trainer: N. Rawal.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹5,005 (81 tkts.) & 30%: 66 (2,612 tkts.).
Mini Jackpot: (i) 1,047 (67 tkts.), (ii) 2,254 (26 tkts.).
Treble: (i) 281 (124 tkts.), (ii) 225 (117 tkts.), (iii) 436 (153 tkts.).